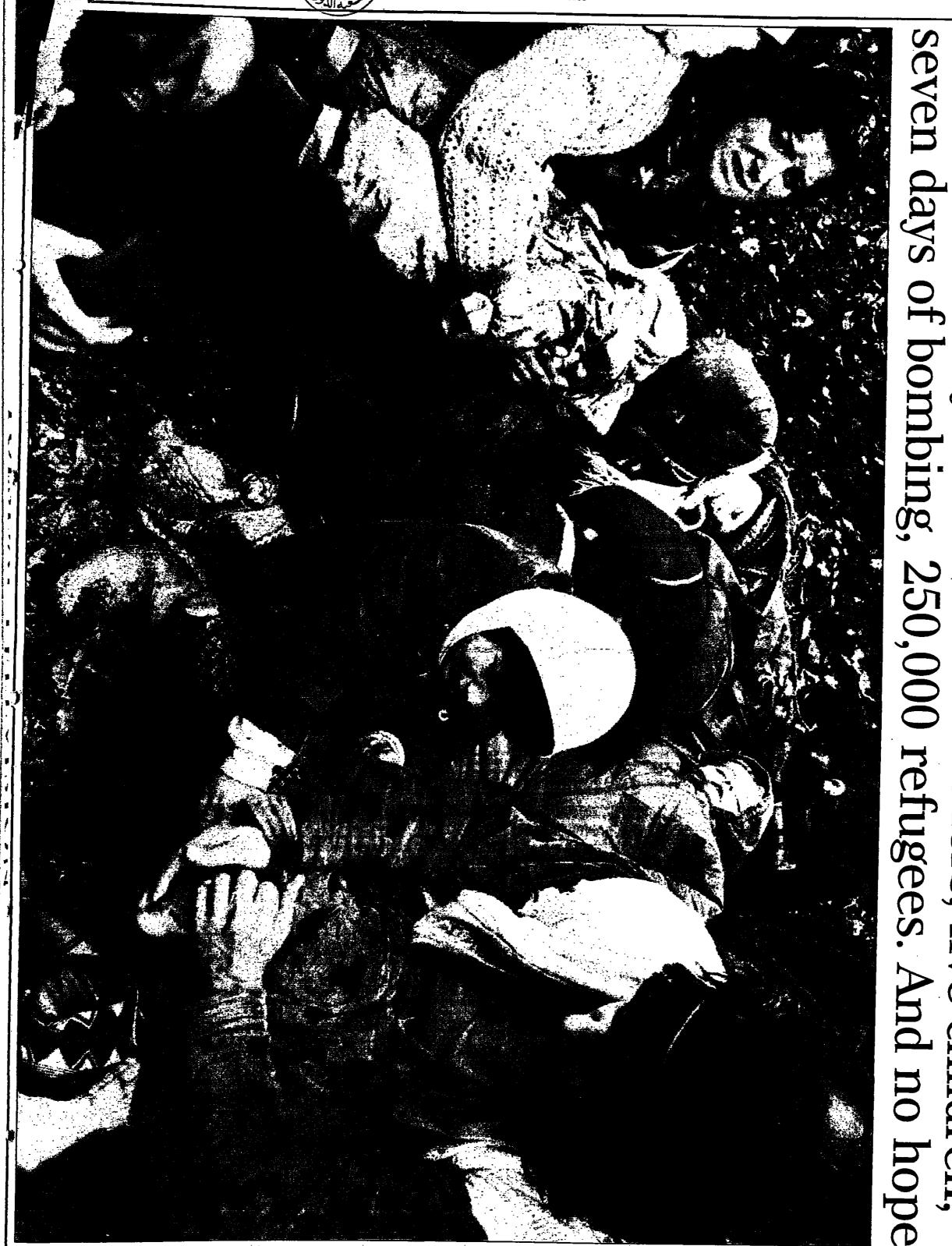
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WAR IN THE BALKANS

Primakov meets Milosevic | Aid operation begins Six hours of talks between the Russian Prime Minister and ne Serb leader gained little Page 2

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Butchery in two cities The Great Terror in Kosovan cities of Pec and Prizren Page 3

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New bombing system Nato deployed a new badweather bombing system Page 5

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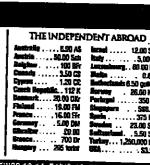
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DARKO BANDIC/AP

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cleansing"

"Pec was a city of 100,000. We now have reports that it's almost totally destroyed" Jamie Shea,

Nato spokesman

atrocities, but it is not a state strategy"

"It's possible that there are

Vuk Draskovic, Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister

"The answer is to intensify the attacks. It is to get in and hit Milosevic and his thugs very, very hard"

"Thousands of Albanians, young and old, women and children, have been . massacred"

Tony Blair Ramadan Avdiu, KLA

"The regime in Belgrade is basically a Nazi regime" Aaron Rhodes. International Helsinki Federation

THE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 31 March 1999

Primakov fails to end the bombing

THE PEACE EFFORT

By ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

AS NATO promised to increase its air bombardment of Serb forces in Kosovo, the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic, last night offered a ceasefire in return for an immediate halt in hostilities. After six hours of talks with the Russian Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, in Belgrade, the Serb leader promised he would reduce his forces in Kosovo and allow "all peaceful refugees" to return to the province "if they are Yugoslav citizens", providing the Nato bombardment ends. It seemed unlikely - to say the least - that Nato would accept

Serb television quoted Mr Milosevic as saying that "Nato aggression should stop" because it is a threat to "international security". There was also speculation that the Serbs would be prepared to accept a peace-keeping observer force in Kosovo made up of neutral nations - and perhaps also Russia. But last October's peace agreement in Kosovo itself provided for a reduction in Serb forces to be "constructive" if Nato and for international observers showed positive signs of ac-- an accord that disintegrated cepting the idea. when the Serbs refused to accept the military implementation of the autonomy plans accepted by Kosovo Albanians

Furthermore Nato, according to Mr Primakov, would also

in Paris this month.

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■ Ken Livingstone ■ Timothy Garton Ash

unlikely step since KLA representatives signed the Paris autonomy agreement. And tens of thousands of Kosovo Albanians do not hold Yugoslav passports; very few acknowledge Yugoslav sovereignty. So how could they "return" to Kosovo? Mr Primakov arrived in Bonn from Belgrade last night to say that Mr Milosevic's offer was "a positive beginning and if the other party [Nato] is willing, a dialogue can start". Mr Milosevic was ready

Early yesterday evening. however, it did not look as though Nato would be able to accept the Serb proposals. The British Government rejected Mr Milosevic's reported offer and said the bombing would

Kosovo Liberation Army - an has got to do. It's actions on the ground that matter, not words about what might happen if Nato ceases its military operations. And he has a track record of breaking promises." said a spokesman. Indeed. Mr Milosevic - well

Review, page 5

aware that Nato fatally miscalculated Serb resistance - may simply be trying to gain the moral high ground, aware that his forces could pursue their ferocious campaign in Kosovo the moment Nato rejected his offer. Yet faced with its unwillingness to send ground troops into battle and the humanitarian catastrophe its bombardment provoked - and which Serb forces brought about there will be Nato nations all too ready to accept any chance of

a ceasefire in what now looks

Yugoslavia had continued even as Mr Primakov arrived in Belgrade yesterday morning. The handshakes and arm-clasps were fraternal, the smiles broad as he stepped from his Tupolev jet at the glass-shattered airport in Belgrade, only minutes after President Boris Yeltsin had condemned the Nato offensive in Moscow. Amid the broken fabric of the airport, smashed in a Nato air raid on a neighbouring communications centre 48 hours earlier, Mr Primakov said that he was trying to move the crisis into political territory or -as he put it in colloquial Russian - "into the political tub".

Mr Milosevic received Mr Primakov in the Beli Dvor-the ornate "White Palace" that was home to the Yugoslav monarchy and later to Tito - in the Belgrade suburb of Topsider, scarcely three miles from the military base at Rakovica that has already been bombed four times by Nato aircraft. Mr Primakov had brought with him his Defence Minister, Igor Sergeyev, Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, and senior Russian intelligence officers.

Shortly after he sat down with Mr Milosevic, Mr Primakov raised both his arms as if imitating the flight of an aircraft - and it is certain that the Russians expressed interest in examining the wreckage of the American F-117A Stealth fight-

Yevgeny Primakov imitating the flight of an aircraft during talks with Slobodan Milosevic yesterday

er that crashed 25 miles from Belgrade on Saturday night.

But even as Mr Milosevic spoke to his Russian guests, new facts were being created on the ground in Kosovo. With more than 25 per cent of the Kosovo Albanians displaced and legions of refugees still pouring into Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro, the Serbs may soon be in a position to claim that northern Kosovo has been abandoned by its Albanian population. There are growing suspicions in Belgrade that once this has been accomplished, Nato may

province with the capital Pristina, the Drenica region and the Trepca lead, zinc and gold mines - the most valuable piece of real estate in the Balkans - remaining exclusively in Serb hands.

The Serbs remain convinced that Nato has turned into a tool of the KLA - against whose forces the Yugoslav army scored a significant success on Sunday with the capture of scores of new anti-armour weapons. However fanciful the notion, it has been fuelled by Serb claims that Nato raids on Serb security forces in Kosovo have been followed by tacitly accept a division of the KLA attacks on the newly

viction that it is the victim of a Nato-KLA plot will only have been reinforced yesterday when the British Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, vouchsafed the view that "if these people [the Kosovo Albanians] say Nato is right to act, who has got the right to say they are wrong?". Hence Mr Milosevic's insistence that any ceasefire must be accompanied by an end to Nato's support for

bombed facilities. Serbia's con-

Figures suggest that up to 36,000 Yugoslav forces - 20,000 soldiers and 16,000 special po- troops to the battle for Kosovo.

the KLA.

lice - are now in Kosovo, clear proof that Nato air strikes have totally failed to dissuade the Serbs from their offensive. Any hope that Mr Milosevic would accede to American and European plans for an international peacekeeping force in Kosovo after two or three days of bombing have been abandoned. Among those most critical of Nato's miscalculations is Carl Bildt, the highly respected former European envoy to Bosnia who has condemned Nato for bombing without the motivation and will to commit ground

They came with no possessions except sadness in their eyes I have such a feeling of guilt. full of images of refugees that think about it tomorrow: For **Dateline Pristina:** Our second report

MY PARENTS' house filled up

with people last night. They were unknown to us and desperate to find a place to stay overnight. They are from Dragodan, a part of Pristina where only Albanians live.

In the afternoon, police entered every house in the neighbourhood - my father tells me there are around 600 - and expelled everyone. It took two hours. They just came in and cleared everything. We have no reports of anyone being killed, though there was some harassment. Armed men in black masks and blue police helmets

came and said: "You have to felt they could find people to leave." The same thing occurred in another part of town,

I saw it through my windows. People were running down the hill. They came with no possessions; they were not ' even allowed to take their 1Ds. They had almost nothing, except a sadness in their eyes. Even the pride that is well known among Albanians seemed destroyed.

Four families came to our building. At first they were scared: they did not know if they would find Serbs or Albanians. Then they met one Albanian, and another, and they

help them. My mother gave them water to calm them, and then tea and coffee. But still they were embarrassed to ask if they could sleep at our house. We have four families in our small apartment now.

During the whole night they stood in the window, looking in the direction of their houses, expecting to see flames. There was no burning, and last night was rather quiet: one Nato plane at 4am, and some detonations, and that was it. But poback to their houses today. Tomorrow it will be a whole

from a journalist trapped in the city see the town, and my friends; since I have stayed in the dark. The only view I have of the world is the computer in front

I wonder where my friends are and all the people I knew lice prevented them from going in this town. I am forbidden to a safe place. I sent a message years. I know my life is in jeop- that they shouldn't worry. Now

do not pull them back.

of me, which I can use until

6pm while I have electricity. I

look through the curtains, but

BRITAIN TODAY

week since I have been able to ardy because of it. My friend was killed yesterday, for one reason: he was a journalist. Baton [Haxiu] was the editor of Koha Ditore [the leading Kosovo newspaper], an excellent guy. His "thing" was exclusive stories and he always knew

what was up. What hurts me the most is that I had news that he was in do the job which I have done for to his family that he was OK,

Thank God his parents' phone have left. Well, they have suris not working, because I wasn't beaten. No one expected it would be

this bad. Not even Baton even though we had war, even though we expected retaliations. We always thought that this would happen in the villages. No one dreamed Pristi-I have decided I won't stop.

I feel the need to continue, even behind the shadow. The television screens are

vived and they might come wouldn't know what to say. I re- back one day. But what about death, one bullet. I hope he - side the town that has really become a camp? Some 300 vehicles full of

people left this morning from Pristina. They have decided to escape, heading south for Macedonia. Who knows if they away as they can from this

most who remain and intend to stay, they think differently. They feel that this is the price ally hope that it was a quick us the people that remain into pay for Kosovo. The only question now is who is going to make it through to the end. So some pride remains. They don't what to help "them" in their wish of emptying Kosovo of the

will be able to pass the This dispatch is from the border safely? But they are des- Balkon Crisis Reports' of the perate to leave, and to be as far Institute for War & Peace Reporting, which can be found at thor's name is withheld to don't think about dying. I will protect against reprisals

1.30

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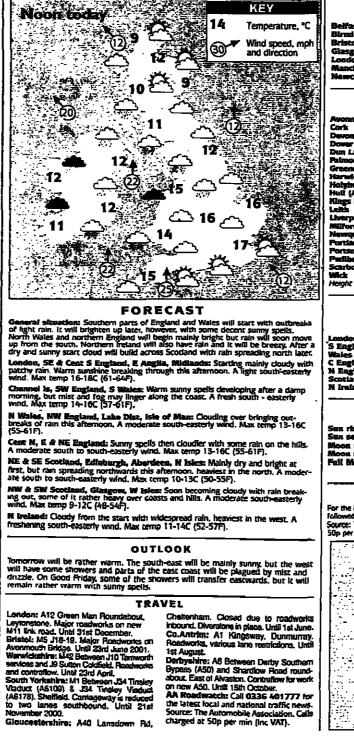
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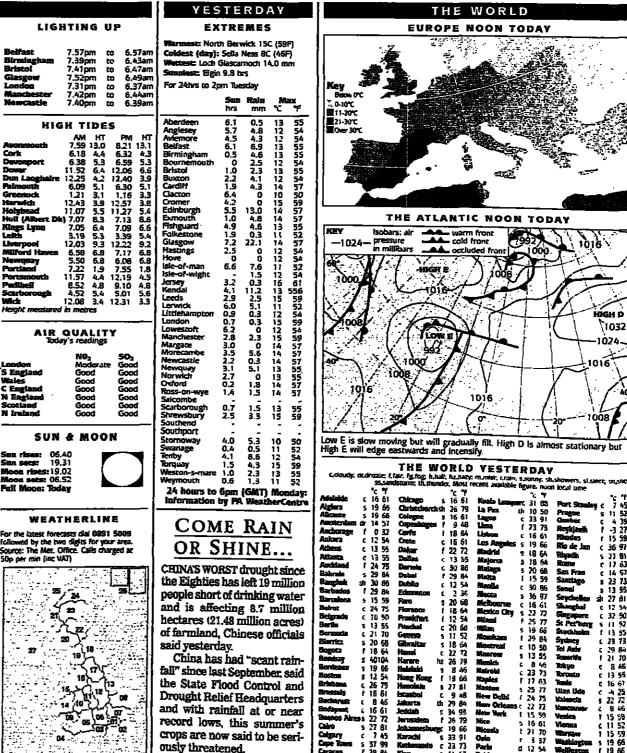
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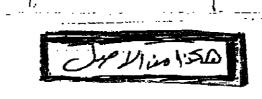
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State Brightness

KOSOVO EMERGENCY HELP SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES Forced to flee their homes, the refugee children of Kosovo are cold, exhausted and terrified. Will you help the innocent children caught up in this conflict? UNICEF is delivering emergency aid and vital medical supplies to the families that are fleeing Kosovo in search of safety. But we must do more - and fast. Please send a gift now whatever you can spare to UNICEF and help save the lives of Kosovo's refugee children. LNATE FREE POST unicef 😉 Please make your cheque postal order payable to UNICEF Or please debut my Switch Deba MasterCard Visa Amor, DinersClub CAF card Issue No. Postcode Please post this coupon, with your gift to: Appeal for the Children of Kosovo, UNICEF, Ruom INDI. FREEPOST, Chelmsford CM2 SBR, THANK YOU.







Auren Rhodes

toter national Helsing

Fleeing to the border: (clockwise from top left) Ethnic Albanians crossing into Albania; at the Montenegro border; in Skopje, Macedonia; stuck in the mountains near Macedonia, and crossing into Morina, Albania EPA/AP/Reuters

Trapped in Europe's Great Terror

cities. Pec and Prizren, cleansed with brutal efficiency by the Serbs, reads like the story of the Bosnian war squared. In only a few days, one encient town has been emptied and destroyed, while in the second, the methods are slightly more restrained but the aims are equally brutal.

Yesterday the tales of horror grew worse as columns of fleeing Albanians - more than 15,000 strong - poured out of towns and cities. Survivors recounted how gun-toting Serb forces had terrorised exhausted refugees hiding in the hills. A refugee named Bardhyl Kabashi said: "The Serbs came to the hill above Celline at midday yesterday shooting in the air and telling everybody to sit face down, hands on their

heads, then forced everybody to stand up, raise their hands in the air to make the Serbian sign with three fingers ... and chant

He said he saw one man killed for refusing to chant, while three other men were pulled away and shot from behind. "Children screamed as the shooting went on."

Similarly horrific stories were related by those fleeing the city of Pec. As they entered Albania, they accused Serb paramilitaries of conducting an orgy of burnings and killings.

"There are lots of unburied people in Pec," said Adem Basha. "The Serbs have settled in the best houses of Pec, which is now 'ethnically cleansed'. Tell the world!"

whose old city was a charming

bled streets, was sudden and extremely violent.

"I wish I had an hour to set the house on fire myself and destroy everything myself rather than have them do it," said Adnan Begiri bitterly. He was expelled from the city at gunpoint and became separated from his family in the chaos.

Daut Bojku recalled: "They came into every apartment, banging on the door and shouting You have to leave now or you will be shot'."

The Serbs' reaction to the Nato bombing campaign was a little more restrained in the old city of Prizren, once with a population of 60,000 people, at least 85 per cent Albanian.

"They are trying to eliminate everything Albanian," said Lul-The order to leave Pec, jeta Cegu Sokoli, an architect expelled from her home in the

THE EXODUS BY EMMA DALY in Morini, Albania

шопеу.

attack, your citizenship was

"They were very correct with us. I was on the list, with my mother and sister ... They took all our documents, even our health certificates, bank books, even our address book.

every possible document." In Pec, the more brutal expulsions were just as organised. Refugees said that Yugoslav soldiers, accompanied by police and armed Serb civilians, arrived at about 10am.

"By noon we were on trucks," said Valdet Shoshi, an

servists. "The police came to the Albanian city. "The whole our house, they had a list and town is clean now. They came they gave us two hours to leave. into town, broke into apart-They told us With Nato's first ments and took everything they could. They were shooting inside, spraying the walls with bullets ... They even searched our pockets and took all our

> It was a bad sign that the Yugoslav Army, usually deployed on more conventional military operations, was being used to expel civilians - a task more commonly left to the brutal special police and their paramilitary allies.

In Pec, Serb citizens did not partake in the horror - "Our neighbours did not protect us, but they did not do anything to

empty – all Albanians are gone." In Prizren, the exodus has been on a lesser scale, with only a quarter of the ethnic Albanian population being ordered to leave, according to Ms Cegu Sokoli's estimate.

"In my neighbourhood they didn't order everyone to leave, just specific families," said Ms Cegu Sokoli. "But even those who are not on the list are leaving anyway, because they are

As she and her husband left their home they saw Serb irregulars on the rampage, vandalising and looting stores. "They were wearing headbands and most had two big knives like machetes and hand grenades hanging from their belts, along with shoulder-fired rockets, shotgums, the usual things they have.

not burnt, but you do see houses that are gutted by fire. I fear that this is a good chance for people to take revenge, so if there are fights between Serb families and Albanians, they may just go and burn houses

der, but they are afraid of be-

down," Ms Cegu Sokoli said. "During the night they spray bullets at the windows of Albanian houses. One night, they threw a hand grenade into a neighbour's shelter, knowing he had a lot of people staying in

his house, but luckily nobody Many of those who remain in Prizren are now frightened to move. "I saw at a funeral that only one small car was going. because no one else dared to go," Ms Cegu Sokoli said sadly. "We had Albanian friends who wanted to drive us to the bor-

In both cities, the Yugoslav Army has gone to ground in civilian buildings, in an attempt to avoid Nato's firepower. "They have taken trucks

ance

them with weapons and parked them in areas populated by Albanian civilians, so Nato can't hit them," Ms Cegu Sokoli said. "I've seen tanks parked mostly in the bus station, near

owned by Albanians, loaded

the graveyard, in the shoe factory, the textile factory, the hospital - places where there are covered parking spaces." In Pec, soldiers have been

dispersed from their barracks and moved into Albanian business premises and private

There is even a story doing the rounds that the Serbs have been driving their tanks through the walls of houses to

Fatherland sees truth through a looking-glass

JUST AFTER Nato's air strikes on Yugoslavia began last week, Belgrade state television entertained its viewers with Wag the Dog. It took a genius to show at such short notice a perfect copy - equally perfectly sub-titled into Serbian – of Hollywood's fantasy about an American president who manufactures a totally artificial war in Albania to escape from private scandal. But no longer do the people of Yugoslavia

have to turn to Hollywood. For to live in Belgrade just now is to see the Balkan war through a looking-glass. While BBC World and Sky TV show a war in which Kesovo Albanians suffer, Belgrade television portrays Nato's attacks as an act of international aggression against an inno-cent nation - Serbia - which is fighting for its life against KLA terrorism" in Kosovo.

Instead of fleeing Albanian refugees, it shows bombed-out Serb homes in Kosovo, wounded children - Albanian and gypsy as well as Serb – in a damaged Pristina hospital, and a massive haul of arms captured from Kosovo Albania guerrillas by young Yugoslav sidiers, one of whom eagerly Misses on his love for his mother in Subotica the moment a microphone is waved in front of his face.

Even the military briefings are a mirror-image of Nato press conferences. While RAF officers talk to journalists in Brussels, Yugoslav Air Defence Commander General Spasoje Smiljanovic invited us for a Yugoslav armed forces military assessment in Belgrade. In a massive room dripping with chandeliers and decorated with two gold twin-headed eagles of Serbia and Yugoslavia, the general was even equipped with a Aide projector to illustrate Nato air strikes and those countries involved in the "aggression" against Yugoslavia. A map showed guilty nations coloured m purple, the innocent - and Russia, of course, is a very big innocent - in white.

THE PROPAGANDA WAR

BY ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

involved in the air bombard-Nato commander: F-15s, F-16s, F-18s, EAGD "Prowlers", A-10s, E3-Awacs, Mirages, When America's downed F-117A "Stealth" fighter-bomber general is in top form. "It flew from New Mexico to come to rest on Serb territory," he says sarcastically. "Such a pity! If it had come as a friend, it would

General Smiljanovic reels tal in Pristina reported to have off the codenames of Nato jets been bombed by Nato and a damaged maternity ward in ment with all the panache of a which 51 babies were reportedly rescued from incubators as the air attacks began. Film at a different clinic showed children.

ian "terrorists" carrying weapbeen killed, the remainder havstill be flying." He insists that ingfled back across the border.

Tornados, Harriers and B-52s. said to be Albanian as well as Serb. with stomach wounds. Third item on the national comes up on the big screen, the news here in the past 24 hours was a dramatic report of a Yugoslav interception of Albanons into Kosovo, 13 of whom had

Fisk wins award for outstanding journalism

ROBERT FISK, our Middle East correspondent, was awarded the Orwell Prize for outstanding journalism last night. The judges of the award, which recognises contributions to the art of political writing, said of Fisk: "His report on the aftermath of the Gulf War, in particular its consequences for the children of Iraq, formed a sustained and impassioned humanitarian

campaign. Moved by his powerful writing, readers of The Independent sent in £100,000 for the underfunded hospitals where these children lay sick and dying". David McKittrick, our Ireland correspondent, was also

shortlisted for the award, which is presented annually in the memory of George Orwell. Flsk recently received the London Press Club award for outstanding reporting.

Yugoslavia has sustained The film report - and the arms "minimal losses" among its air-raid personnel - just seven soldiers killed and 17 wounded (a lower figure than the weekend's) - while admitting "severe damage to stationary facilities and infrastructure"

costing \$300m (£183m). While Western television viewers were watching exhausted Kosovo Albanian refugees talking of Serb executions and "ethnic cleansing", their Serb counterparts were seeing a badly damaged hospi-

-appeared to be new; they included a large number of antiarmour weapons, apparently of Austrian manufacture. The Kosovo town of Djakovica had been attacked by Nato forces, viewers were told, and dozens of civilian houses damaged as 'built for just such a purpose well as the town's Catholic

church and monastery. Serbs were outraged to be told that the Serb village of oslav armed forces are far Gracanica had been almost from down and out Just who, totally destroyed by Nato one wonders here these days. bombs. Other reports said that is wagging the dog?

KLA "terrorists" had attacked military positions immediately they had been targeted by Nato. Clearly, there have been Serb civilian casualties. Yesterday, for example, Care Australia reported that nine Serb refugees from Krajina, captured by Croatian forces more than four years ago, had been killed in Cacak, 85 miles from Beigrade, where they had been living in an abandoned barracks attacked by Nato.

General Smiljanovic insisted that Yugoslav air defence forces had shot down seven Nato aircraft - Nato says it has lost only one - and three helicopters, more than 30 cruise missiles and three pilotless

drone reconnaissance aircraft. Nato denies the helicopters although it has made no comment about lost drones or missiles destroyed by ground fire. The general went out of his way to praise his MiG-29 pilots. And indeed, yesterday's issue of Soldier magazine - the jour nal of the Yugoslav armed forces - shows that Serb and Montenegrin pilots are praised as much here as Nato's war riors of the air are on BBC World. Four MiG pilots were promoted by President Slobodan Milosevic, and a medal of honour went to two senior officers for defending "the Father-

land's airspace". So much for the gongs. In reality, Yugoslavia has shrewdly kept most of its mobile antiaircraft missile defences intact, keeping them deactivated and moving them around to avoid Nato target positioning. Whenever air-raid alerts suggest a threat to MIG airfields, Yugoslav jets are scrambled, either returning to their air bases after the alert or, if their airfields are damaged, landing on the great highways that Tito more than 20 years ago.

In other words, despite all the Nato bombing, the Yug-



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Refugees from Kosovo waiting for bread to be distributed from an aid truck in the Albanian town of Kukes yesterday

HUMANITARIAN AID By Frances Kennedy in Puglia

supplies to be distributed by relief operation got under way the UNHCR emergency team. at dawn yesterday as 30 truck-Clare Short, the Secretary of trailers rolled off the Italian

State for International Develwarship San Marco at the Alopment, said yesterday that banian port of Durres. They the situation in Kosovo had dewere followed by 40 buses, 5,000 tents, 50,000 sleeping bags, 50 toilets as well as camp kitchens, teriorated rapidly over the last 24 hours and it was clear substantial further assistance was food and medical supplies. needed. UNHCR had sufficient The United Nations High supplies of tents and blankets. Commissioner for Refugees she said, but they needed to be said it had held an emergency moved very quickly to where

meeting yesterday with aid providers and had urged them The World Food Programme to make direct donations to the countries taking in the refugees - Albania, Macedonia needed logistical support to and the Yugoslav republic of get it to the people. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, announced Montenegro - concentrating on Monday that Britain was on shelter, transport and medmaking £10m available as an ical assistance. An \$8.5m (£5.3m) pledge had been re-ceived from the United States initial response to the crisis. In the space of two days, 170 Italian military personnel,

Britain has provided a transworking with Italian and foreign aid workers, should be able port plane to airlift tents and blankets to Albania, UNHCR provide shelter for some 20,000 refugees. Thirty eight buses, dosaid yesterday. The plane will shuttle between various destinated by Italian city transport authorities, will ensure the

THE EUROPEAN humanitarian nations and Albania with more to Bari to load more relief supplies. Its sister ship, the San Giorgio, may also be deployed

to transport further goods. Italy's Interior Minister. Rosa Russo Jervolino, yesterday led an Italian delegation visiting the Albanian town of needed. Ms Jervolino reiterated that the request from the Albanian authorities was for assistance to be sent there, rather than the dispatch of refugees to Italy and other European countries. But she also said it had enough food but added that if it became necessary for refugees to be evacuated they would not be left at the mercy of the criminal gangs who charge \$1,000 to ferry migrants across the Strait of

Otranto. There are contingency plans should the flow of refugees prove so large that it cannot be dealt with in Albania or Macedonia. At a disused runway near Bari airport, still closed to

kick-started the operation, they European effort. In addition, the comfortably carry 2,000 people. Amsterdam Treaty, which comes in to effect in May binds refugees, have been dismissed EU members to sharing the soby the Defence Ministry. The cial and financial costs of any

civilian traffic, 500 caravans have been allocated for use and a further 500 are available at a former Nato facility near Foggia, 60 miles to the north.

Cook: We won't fight our way in

WESTMINSTER

BY COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

KOSOVAR ALBANIANS yester- Democrat leader wrote to the day begged the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, not to allow their people to face the marauding Serbs empty handed. to use ground forces.

transport of exhausted families

crossing the border into Alba-

nia to camps that are being established by the UNHCR in

would return with a load of

other parts of the country. Initial reports that the naval vessel San Marco, which could

The Foreign Secretary later ruled out the possibility of Nato arming the Kosovo Liberation Army, but he did appear yesterday on the same platform as the KLA's external representative, Barhyl Mahmutias.

In an emotional appeal for more help from Nato a former journalist in Kosovo, Hamide been no change of policy in favour of sending in troops. Cook: "I want to send a message to British mothers and sisters. I hear voices - why should mit ground forces to guarantee my son go and fight there?

ers to send their sons, we are ready to fight," she said. "We are old people, we are young people - we have people but we have empty hands. With hands in pockets you cannot fight mil-

itary which is so sophisticated." Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Prime Minister last night calling on Britain and the Nato allies to start preparing plans

"I believe that Nato leaders seriously underestimate the public will in this matter. Even if you are not prepared at present to commit yourself to the use of ground troops, I beg you not to exclude the possibility,' Mr Ashdown told Tony Blair.

Mr Cook insisted there had but he appeared to leave the possibility open. "We will coma ceasefire but not to fight

But he added that in the Gulf war, there was a seven week air campaign before ground troops were sent in. "It is not our intention to put in ground troops. Even if it was, we would be doing exactly what we are doing from the air now.



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WINDSHER

The US B1B long-range heavy bomber

THE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 31 March 1999

*Bomber delivers new type of 'smart' weapon

NATO WEAPONRY

weapon yesterday in its fight against Yugoslav forces in Kosovo - a devastating bombing system that can operate acforces that it is attacking

Designed specifically for use against tanks and mobile artarget by a Global Positioning no manned missions were com-Satellite (GPS) navigation system. Unlike the other "smart" weapons used so far in Operation Allied Force, in the Gulf War or in Operation Desert Fox against Iraq, it does not need clear weather to work.

The system is carried on the US BIB long-range heavy bomber, four of which were yesterday on their way to the Balkans region from bases in different parts of the United States. The system has never before been used in combat, but proved accurate to within 10m (33 feet) of a target in trials two

Bad weather has dogged the

NATO DEPLOYED a new Nato air campaign, leading to the abortion of hundreds of missions because the aircraft could not be sure of dropping their weapons accurately. The curately in bad weather and risk of causing civilian casualwhich gives no warning to the ties in those circumstances was considered too high. On Monday, many missions were again

10 "Warthog" anti-tank planes, which have been reported in action over the past two days, require good weather. cancelled, including RAF Har-

While Nato spokesmen are upbeat about the capabilities of cruise missiles, which are also aimed using GPS technology. tillery, the bomb is guided to its riers'. On Friday and Saturday, the inability to fly so many

Even the much-vaunted US A-

the campaign and left Serbian tanks and artillery in Kosovo pleted by any allied aircraft. Chief of the Defence Staff, said: free to roam and kill at will. to avoid civilian casualties if hu-

The experience of the RAF Harriers based in Italy has been particularly frustrating. Of the six nights of the campaign so far, they have flown on only two sorties when their laserguided bombs have been dropped successfully. General Sir Charles Guthrie.

manly possible." Laser, infra-red or optical

(TV) guidance systems need a clear sight of the target for about 90 seconds to work properly. If it is even temporarily obscured by cloud or smoke, the system could fail to "lock on".

at any time, there is a risk of dropping the bomb in the wrong place. "Because of the fear of collateral damage, the pilot has got to be absolutely TERRAIN OFFERS CLUE AS TO WHY JET CAME DOWN

Yugoslavia that has made

the difference. Flying over

bombs, which are being used by

the Harriers, in effect travel

down a beam to the target

from heights of 4,000 to 5,000

metres. If the beam is broken

Petrie, a defence analyst.

even Harrier pilots.

dous advantages.'

it is when this armour-piercing

metal is flying around their ears

and in their tanks," said Air Vice-

Marshal Tony Mason."This is

not the answer to Milosovic, this

is not going to end the war in 24

this mountainous landscape, where targets are easily concealed, it is likely the planes would have to carry out manoeuvres which could seriously affect its "stealth" characteristics.

Even a standard banking turn increases the aircraft's radar profile by 100 times, sources say.

TIMETABLE

MONDAY 29 MARCH

5.50pm: Nato fighter jets start to take off from Aviano air base for sixth night in a row. They are accompanied by two A-10 tank-busters, an Awacs early warning plane and a C-130 transport aircraft. 6.50pm: Air raid sirens start to sound. Explosions are heard just north of Belgrade near chemical factories and army installations. **10.30pm:** US announces it is beefing up its air power

five EA-6B Prowler aircraft and also more tankers.

over Yugoslavia, sending additional B1-B bombers.

TUESDAY 30 MARCH 4.30am: Aid agency Care Australia reports that nine people have been killed by Nato bombs dropped on Yugoslav military targets. They say the bombs also

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damaged two of its refugee centres housing women and children. 5.15am: The Ministry of Defence dismisses Serbian claims that an RAF Harrier let has been shot down over Montenegro. 8.30am: Russian Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov. arrives in Belgrade to try to end the attacks. 8.45am: MoD says six Harrier ground attack jets abandoned an overnight raid due to bad weather. 12.00: Reports emerge that Serbian forces backed Using GPS, however, moby armour and artillery bile targets can be picked up have launched an attack on and tracked by radar in Awacs a valley in central Kosovo or other surveillance aircraft, where 50,000 ethnic even in zero visibility. The Albanian refugees are bombs are designed to explode believed to be sheltering. 10 to 15 metres above the 12.30pm: Kosovo's main ground, spreading the armourborder post with Albania. piercing fragmentation warthrough which refugees head over a wide area. Any have flooded in recent tanks, guns or armoured perdays, reopens after being sonnel carriers in that range shut for 14 hours by would be destroyed, the theo-Augoslav guards.

ry goes. Also, as the aircraft fly 1.30pm: Reports emerge at 8.5km to 10km, they can atof Serbian forces attacking tack with much less risk than ethnic Albanian districts of Pristina. Parts of the city "The other advantage of Byare reported to be in ing at those kinds of heights is flames. the enemy gets no warning. The first thing they know about

2.00pm: Primakov-Milosevic talks end 3.00pm: Air raid sirens sound in Belgrade 5.30pm: Mr Primakov arrives in Bonn to discuss Kosovo with Chancellor



An image from Serb TV showing the ruins of a factory in the Serbian town of Cacak, which the Serbs say was hit by four Nato missiles AP

"We are determined, and the pi-

lots are absolutely determined.

So did it "malfunction" or conducting their investi-"It felt like a knife technology was developed through the stomach," was in the Seventies. Certainly it is important the reaction of one engineer During the Gulf war the to get the answer right. If it from the aircraft's design aircraft flew more than was because of a broken programme when he heard 1,200 sorties without a the news. The US has spent single plane being damaged

was it shot down? The question of what caused a F-117A Nighthawk "Stealth" fighter to fall from the sky over Serbia on Saturday night has still to be conclusively answered.

Despite the fact that the pilot, who should know a few things about what happened, was rescued within hours, Pentagon

part, pilot error or a lucky shot from anti-aircraft gunners, then there is not too much of a problem. But if it meant that the stealth technology didn't work. then a lot of people are going to go back to a lot of

a total of \$50bn on developing this aircraft, the B-2 bomber and a new generation of fighters. Other experts said that it was a surprise that the

secret had lasted so long,

even amazed air force chiefs. But that was over a flat desert terrain, similar to that of the Nevada desert

by Iraqi fire, a feat that

where it was designed. Some experts feel it

Obstacles to ground force are political and physical

LAND OFFENSIVE BY RAYMOND WHITAKER AND JOHN DAVISON

AS THE world is confronted with its inability to prevent the "ethnic cleansing" and murder of thousands of Kosovo Albanians, demands for Nato to send in ground troops are getting louder. But, leaving aside the constant assurances in recent weeks that Nato would never fight its way into Kosovo, any reversal of strategy is likely to encounter huge physical and political obstacles.

Critics of the present strategy of attacking Serbia only from the air argue that soon there will not be a single Albanian left alive in the province, and that the 12,000-strong Nato troops in Macedonia, sent as the advance party of a peacekeeping force, should move into Kosovo immediately. But military strategists say if they had to fight their way in, it would take a heavily armoured force many times bigger.

There are believed to be about 40,000 Serbian troops in Kosovo, to say nothing of pos-sible reinforcements not far away," said Phillip Mitchell, ground forces specialist at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). "The rule of thumb is that an invading force should outnumber the defenders by three to one. Even if Nato took the decision to assemble such a force today, I estimate it couldn't be done in less than four to six weeks."

It might theoretically be possible to fly 100,000 troops into the region, but it would be suicidal for them to go into Kosovo without the kind of heavy weapoury that in practical terms can be transported only

Britain currently has a reinforced armoured battle group and headquarters of 4,800 troops from 4th Armoured Brigade in Macedonia If the Peace talks in France had succeeded, a second battle group would have been added, bringing the British contribution up



to 8,000. Fully deployed, they would have had 30 Challenger tanks, 40 Warrior fighting vehicles and 12 AS-90 155mm heavy, self-propelled guns. This was planned to be the largest contingent in the 28,000-strong

Nato peace-keeping force under British command. Even to assemble a force of that size would take another two weeks, however. The remaining battle group is on 72hour stand-by in Germany, but it would take at least 10 days to transport its heavy equipment by sea to the region through

Contrast this with Britain's contribution to the allied force that fought in the Gulf eight years ago. At its peak, it had a reinforced division in the field, consisting of 40,000 troops, some 200 battle tanks, over 90 artillery pieces and at least 18 attack helicopters. "Just to get their basic equipment there took three or four weeks," said Mr Mitchell Even then, Britain had to beg and borrow men and equipment from almost every corner of the military; with the

cuts the armed forces have undergone since then, it would be impossible to muster a force of that size today.

Assembling an armoured division strong enough to fight the Serbs would inevitably require the US to take the lead - unlikely, given the degree of opposition in Congress. Macedonia and Greece were uncomfortable enough hosting the peace-keeping force of 28,000, and would probably face insurmountable political difficulties if they were asked to allow a much bigger invasion

army to gather on their soil. Then there are the logistical difficulties. "Port facilities were much better in Saudi Arabia," said Mr Mitchell, "and it took months to get all the pieces for Desert Storm in place. You would need almost as big a force here, and Salonica, through which all the heavy equipment now in Macedonia was shipped, could not cope."

Albania would have far fewer

political quaims about being the

jumping-off point for an inva-

sion force, but its best port, Dur-

res, is even less adequate for the task, according to another IISS expert. "Nor is that the end of the matter," said Mr Mitchell. "You need all-weather roads capable of carrying heavy armour, and Albania doesn't have

Even if all these difficulties could be overcome, there are few routes through the mountains that ring Kosovo. The main roads into the province from both Macedonia and Albania run through narrow gorges and are punctuated by tunnels and bridges. Preventing the Serbian forces from blocking them would be a major military operation in itself.

Mr Mitchell gave short shrift to the idea of an airborne assault on Kosovo. "It might be possible to drop large numbers of men with some light armour and artillery into the province," he said, "but unless they were icined within two to three days by a mechanised, armoured force, they would be defenceless." Not quite as defence-

After dinner we cleaned up.

At the Royal Television Society Programme Awards, the BBC swept the board-winning no fewer than 18 out of 25 awards. It's a well deserved tribute to the many people responsible.

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Actor-Female

Regional Documentary Regional Programme

Features - Daytime

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now Me Winter (Hibbert Ralph Entertainment)

England (BBC) David and Grough - Life of Birds (BBC)
Noel The Son (BBC Northern Ireland)

The Name World (BBC) Damien & Connell - Thirty Five Aside (Clingfilm Productions) Windrush (Pepper Productions for BBC Education)

Drinking For England - Modern Times (Century Films) Ray Winstone - Our Boy (Wall To Wall Television)

Thora Hird Talking Heads: Waiting For The Telegram (Slow Motion)

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國PLUS LAW

HE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN VINER,



'Glimmers of hope' after Ulster talks

HOPES FOR real progress in the crucial Northern Ireland politnight after a day of intensive talks involving Tony Blair, the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, and

Some of those involved spoke of glimmers of hope and a sense that movement was possible from both the repubicans and the Unionists who have for so many months been locked in the impasse over arms decommissioning.

They did not, however, pre-

the two prime ministers held Ireland Correspondent

through that might satisfy both constituencies, and there was mystery about an earlyafternoon report that said a settlement was on the cards.

The sense of optimism fluctuated throughout the day, with some high morning hopes dimming as the afternoon wore on. At the same time, there was a growing sense that all sides were engaged in a serious search for a settlement of the long-running issue.

Publicly, though, republicans and Unionists gave no overt inklings of major changes in their positions, the former saying the IRA was not about to give up weapons, while the latter maintained that no new executive would be formed if they

One of the most unbeat assessments came from the Irish Foreign Minister, David Andrews, who said: "Altogether the atmosphere is one of friendto this terribly, terribly difficult problem. We have succeeded in getting this far by finding solutions with which all sides can live. I think we have to do the same thing with the present impasse, and we don't have very much time to do it."

Mr Blair and Mr Ahern were heckled by loyalists as they made their way to the large helicopter parked, symbolically, on the lawn right in front of Mitchel McLaughlin, said he

A couple of republicans enagitprop, meanwhile, by climb-Unionist hero Sir Edward Carson, which dominates the Stormont grounds, and hoisting a tricolour. A furious Ian Paisley demanded that police take them away, and they eventually climbed down.

In the afternoon, the action moved from Stormont to the ba-ronial splendour of Hillsborough Castle in Co Down, where

IN BRIEF

Woman held in Irish murder hunt

IRISH POLICE were questioning a woman in Dublin last night about the murder of the Sunday Independent

journalist, Veronica Guerin, in Dublin in 1996. Paul Ward,

year. Brian Meehan faces a murder trial later this year.

War crimes jury undecided

35, from Dublin, was convicted of Ms Guerin's murder last

THE Old Bailey jury trying a former British Rail worker in

the UK's first full war crimes trial failed to reach a verdict

yesterday and will continue deliberations today. Anthony

Sawoniuk, 78, from Bermondsey, south-east London, has

denied two charges of murdering Jewish women in 1942.

£3m claim in food poisoning case

MORE THAN 600 food poisoning victims, who are taking the largest group action against a major tour operator,

damages. Sunworld has already accepted responsibility for the families who stayed in Majorca last year.

PEOPLE WERE warned to beware of low-flying peacocks

in search of a love nest. Keepers at Dudley Zoo in the

Midlands said the birds were likely to leave the zoo to

mate on nearby streets."It does give people a bit of a shock when they see one wandering down their street."

Vimto's secret kept under wraps

THE SECRET recipe for Vimto, one of Britain's best-loved

drinks, was on the move yesterday under police guard to

The Prime Minister will

stamped on his heart

N THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

have Belfast and Belgrade

new premises near Wigan, Greater Manchester.

ANNE MCELVOY

have issued a High Court writ claiming up to £3m in

Warning over urban peacocks

talks centring on the Ulster Unionist party leader, David Trimble, the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, and the SDLP leader, John Hume.

A senior official at the Northern Ireland Office said: "They are not wasting their time. Therefore there must be some movement, but it remains difficult. There are glimmers of hope. Equally there is a lot of hard work to be done, but there are no guarantees. There is still a big gap to be closed."

In addition to the straight political meetings, Mr Blair held several meetings with representatives of Portadown's Garvaghy Road residents and leaders of the Orange Order who have been involved in the Drumcree marching stand-off. Mr Trimble said: "We are

conscious of the historic opportunities that exist here. The question is whether the paramilitary parties have the will to grasp this historic opportunity to implement this agreement in its entirety.

"The choice lies with those who have yet to carry out their side of the bargain. We have done all we can do.'

In a symbolic visit to a religiously integrated school in north Belfast, Mr Blair declared: "I will not stop or rest until this thing is done. Without trust between the parties, this Agreement isn't going to work. but I believe we can get there."

Sinn Fein's chairman. was working collectively to gaged in their own version of resolve the impasse. "I have noticed spokespersons talking ing the large statue of the in terms of the 'D' [decommissioning] word as an issue which will be resolved by voluntary action - a much more pragmatic and sensible approach - and I would hope that all of the parties can get behind that kind of common sense and systemic addressing of the problems.".

Anne McEivoy, Review, page 3

HURDLES TO **OVERCOME**

ONE REASON Tony Blair and almost everyone is anxious to resolve the issues of arms and builds to a climax in four years it has produced serious confrontations at Drumcree near Portadown, Co Armagh. Although last year's protest at the decision of the authorities to ban the march petered out after ,

appears determined to get through this year. Sporadic protests have continued and Catholic-Protestant relations in

bomb attack, the

Portadown Orange lodge

the area hav levels of bitterness unusual even by Northern Ireland standards. Efforts to defuse the tension received a severe setback with this month's assassination of Rosemary Nelson (above), the local Catholic solicitor killed by a loyalist car bomb. The Orange Order cannot be confident of the same widespread support as last year if it mounts protests again this year. but the depth of local feeling is such that

Drumcree is almost certain to become a flashpoint yet again. A major political test is also looming in the European elections in June. The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, traditionally tops the poll in these.

Hume, of the SDLP, second and a representatir of the Ulster Unionists taking the

third seat. The Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble (above) has a two-fold problem. Mr Paisley (below) is intent on turning the contest into a second referendum on the Good Friday Agreement while the Ulster Unionist candidate. Jim Nicholson, could be weakened by his recent admission of an extramarital affair. If the tide of Unionist opinion flows against the Agreement, and if the conservative electorate punishes Mr Nicholson, Mr Paisley could surge ahead. Later in the summer, the former Hong Kong governor Chris Patten is due to deliver a far-reaching

report on the future of policing in Northern ireland.

Whatever the report contains it will become the focus of a fierce debate, with Unionists attempting to protect the Royal Uister Constabulary while nationalists seek fundamental changes. The policing issue, always a sensitive one, has been made thornier still by the death of Mrs Nelson and the revelation that RUC officers appeared to be dismissive and obstructive during an earlier investigation of her complaints that she had been threatened by police. In sum this timetable suggests that whether or not a breakthrough is made this week the summer will once again

DAVID MCKITTRICK

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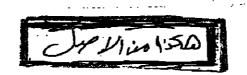
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Bulger trial not fair, says expert

ONE OF the child psychiatrists By CHERRY NORTON who gave evidence in the James Bulger case has spoken out in support of this month's European ruling that the killers were not given a fair trial

Dr Eileen Vizard, a consul-tant child psychiatrist who evaluated Robert Thompson, one of the children convicted, said the atmosphere at their trial was so intimidating that it prevented the children from being able to understand what was happening or to participate in the trial effectively.

She said a charge of manslaughter would have probably been more suitable.

Speaking about the Bulger case, at a conference on violence last week, she said: "It is obvious that very young children couldn't feel in any way at ease. It was extremely intimidating and one really would have to question the true capacity of children in that context to plead their case, to instruct their solicitors and to really understand what the implications of the trial were."

Earlier this month, the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg, said that the procedures used to convict Jon Venables and Robert Thompson were a violation of their rights. Venables and Thompson, aged 10 when they killed two-year-old James Bulger in 1993, were tried in an adult court and then detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

The commission said that the trial of the two boys at Preston Crown Court placed them ances of the case and why it is in a "highly charged atmos- all coming out again," he said.

Social Affairs Correspondent

phere". It rejected claims that the court case amounted to "inhuman and degrading treat-ment", but agreed that they had been prevented from participating effectively, a violation of Article Six of the European

Convention on Human Rights. Dr Vizard said her assessnot used in the trial because it was deemed to be "unhelpful".

"In practical terms the questions which I was asked in relation to the Bulger case were extremely constrained and didn't allow for any development of the psychiatric evidence. They were very tightly focused questions around the defendants' capacity to understand that the events were seriously wrong," she said

The commission ruling, which has been referred to the European Court of Human Rights, could force Britain to change the way young children are tried for serious crimes. Normally children below the age of 18 are tried in a youth court. If the trials are for murder, manslaughter or other offences carrying sentences of more than 14 years, the child is tried in Crown Court if older than 10.

Rex Makin, the solicitor who acted for James's father, said that the re-evaluation of the Bulger family. "It is difficult for them to understand all the nu-

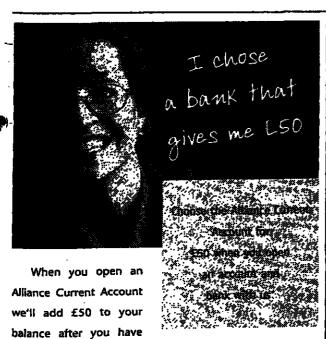
Mugged tourist dies after fall from bus

A TOURIST who was mugged wo hours after arriving in Britain died yesterday from injuries she suffered during

The 49-year-old Swedish handhag from a double-decker bus in central London on Saturday afternoon. The woman, who was on holiday with her 13to the pavement. The family ed a murder inquiry.

By JASON BENNETTO

were about to alight from the bus in Kensington Gore, near the Albert Hall, when the attacker woman was dragged by her grabbed the woman's handbag, which she was carrying strapped across her body. As he jumped from the moving bus, the woman fell to the road, striking her head. The attacker escaped band, banged her head as she fell in a black cab. Police have start-



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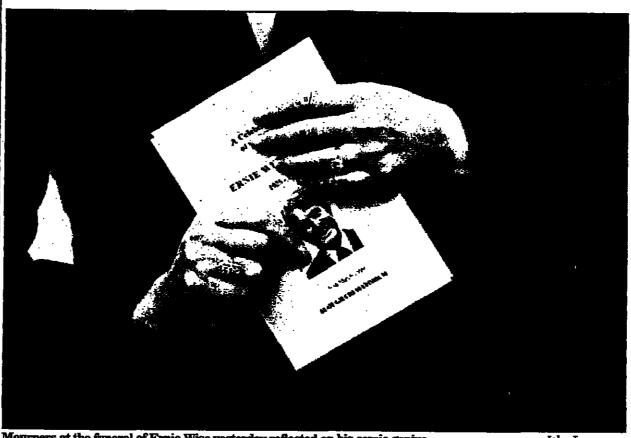
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Stars recall Little Ern's big contribution



Mourners at the funeral of Ernie Wise yesterday reflected on his comic genius

ERNIE WISE, the underrated BY JACK O'SULLIVAN straight man in Britain's most famous comedy double act, finally gained centre stage

crematorium in Slough, Berkshire, to pay tribute to "Little Ern", who was famous for being the "short, fat, hairy legs" - and not a lot else - of Morecambe and Wise. The comedian died earlier this month aged 73,

after a heart operation But yesterday, the son of a railway porter who started in showbusiness at 13 as a clog dancer was lauded for his own comic genius. There had been too much concentration on Eric Morecambe's contribution, said the former Channel 4 chief executive Michael Grade, delivering the funeral oration.

"Let us be clear. They were equal partners in the comic ge-nius department," he said.

Together, he said, they created a "comic chemistry that can only be explained as a divine process". Each was vital to the other. "Morecambe without Wise? It's unthinkable. Like trying to create a table without Angela Rippon, the former

newsreader who became a star after dancing on a Morecambe and Wise Christmas show, said: "Ernie was such a very generous, kind man. You have to be generous to be a straight man to a comedian like Eric Morecambe, who always gets the

laughs." Also among the mourners were Rolf Harris, Wendy Craig and the comedian Tom O'Connor. The television presenter Michael Barratt said: "My one regret is that I did not appear accolade in Britain at the time.

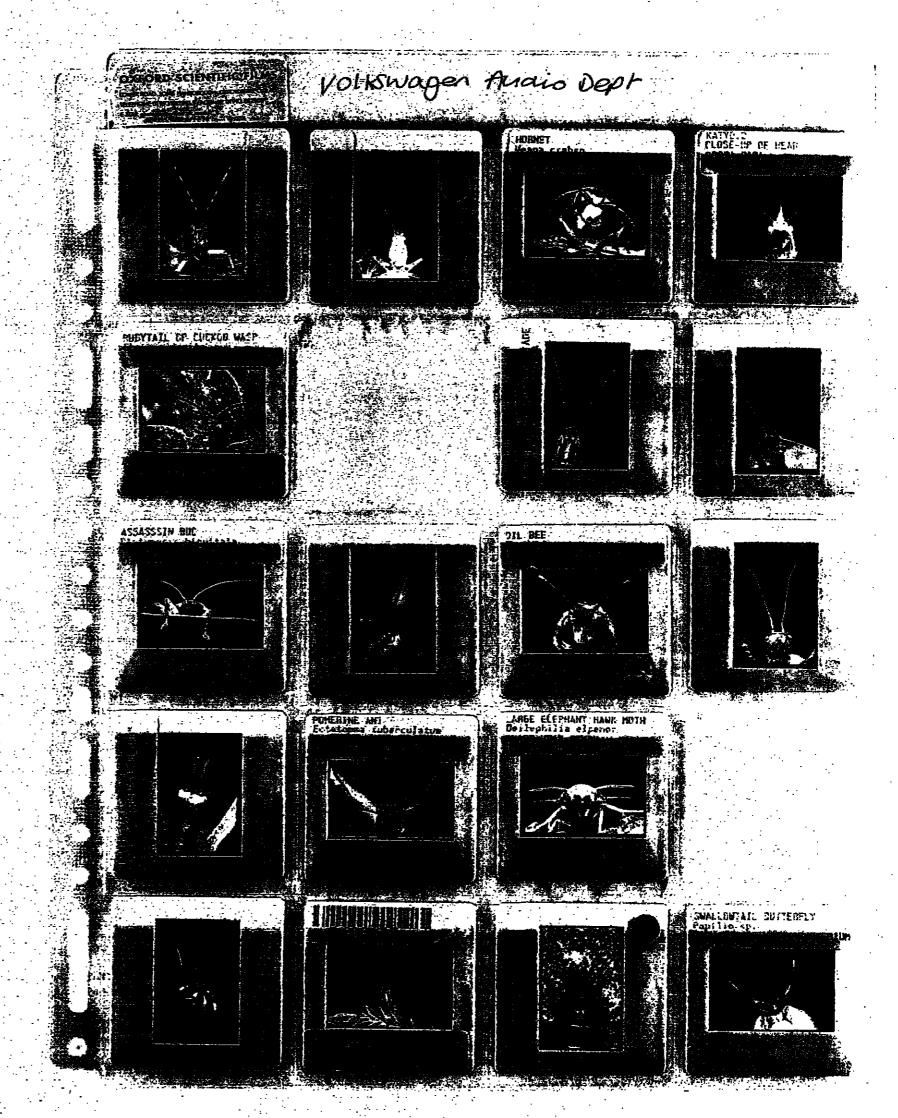
The tone of the funeral was of Teddy Johnson, runner-up with Pearl Carr in the 1959 Eurovision Song Contest, sang Ernie Wise's favourite song - Henry Manci-ni's "Shadow of Your Smile".

Joan Morecambe. Eric's widow, stood alongside Doreen, Ernie's widow, reading messages on the floral tributes. "Eric and Ernie formed one of the most perfect friendships said Mrs Morecambe. "I doo't think there will be a double act

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Quavering swansong of an ancient and doomed species

TORY MPs had fun yesterday with Speak for Births, Marriages and lasted well into the early hours. Yes-Jack Cunningham's statement on Deaths) and spluttered at the idea terday it was taken up again, 180 Modernising Government, yock- of civil servants attending "Learn- peers queuing to make their swan ing with increasingly noisy contempt as the Minister for the Cabinet Office doggedly worked his way through his speech - one of those bullet-pointed mission statements that should ideally be presented with the help of a flipchart and an Innovations cata-

logue laser pointer. They hooted at his promise to create government that was "joined-up and responsive", giggled at the phrases "one-stop-shop" and "common-life-episodes" (the lat-

ing Labs". But the biggest ironic cheer was reserved for Mr Cun-case for culling the swans. ningham's pledge to develop government for the information age.

dealings with government will be of universal suffrage. Lord Inglecapable of electronic delivery.

House of Lords: Lord Lucas, a erence for "evolutionary rather young hereditary, making a last bid for modernity with a question about may put him at odds with more trae-mail. The more significant debate ditional-minded colleagues, who about modernisation that followed probably take the view that evolu-

song - or, alternatively, to put the

One feels that some embattled hereditaries may not have caught This did contain one substantive up with e-mail yet, still struggling promise: by 2008, 100 per cent of as they are to digest the enormities wood, speaking against the Gov-By chance, this answered a ernment, was prepared to define his question asked on Monday in the Conservatism yesterday as a prefthan revolutionary change". This



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

tion itself was recklessly precipitous in its methods. You can imagine them solemnly convened up a tree,

surrender our prehensile tails," says one ancient silver-back, "but what is to replace them? We have not been told!" His fellows then break off from mutual grooming to mutter that swinging from branch to branch had served the community well for hundreds of years, so why change now?

If we are to believe the generality of speeches in the House, the hereditaries are paragons of selfless duty. The attribution of merit is undoubtedly deserved in some cases (though I would have thought that the allocation of 92 spaces will com-

for the semi-skimmed). But not many speakers mention that the sense of service was accompanied by a comfortable living and a hefty wedge of unaccountable power. And when they do, it is only because they wish to claim it as just one more "have no ladder to climb", they can't be compromised; because they owe their position to no party.

they can speak free of inhibition. This isn't by any means the most perverse defence of their privilege. Lord Malmesbury, a man so venerable that you wouldn't dare to

contemplating the possibility of bi-pedalism. "We have been urged to la crème with a few seats left over ed, quavered: "It would be difficult la crème with a few seats left over for a nominated House to produce the youth we get here."

Such speeches were best answered by Lord Shore of Stepney, who pointed out that the cause notionally espoused by the hereditaries - that of protecting an effective secasset. Because the hereditaries ond chamber-would be best served by their departure, since the Commons would no longer be able to dismiss its contradictions as the bray of embedded privilege. If duty and sacrifice is their prime mover, they should be consoled. They have one last service to perform by falling on their swords with dignity.

Peers angry as Irvine warns against delay

PROSPECTS OF any consensus LORDS' REFORM over House of Lords reform diminished last night as peers grew more hostile to the Government's plans to scrap the voting rights of hereditaries.

Their anger was fuelled after the Lord Chancellor gave the House of Lords Bill would breach the deal to retain 91 hereditaries in the interim period of reform.

Irvine of Lairg said the socalled "Weatherill" compromise would allow the rest "to depart with dignity".

But he stressed ministers would not agree on a greater number of hereditaries staying, and would not hesitate to invoke the Parliament Act, allowing the Commons to override the peers, to carry out its plans.

"Changes will not be accepted either here, or in the Commons," said the Lord Chancellor. "Nor will the Government tolerate any material disruption of its legislative proBy Sarah Schaefer

Political Reporter

messages between both Houses signifying continuing disagreement, or by any other means, when it has a manifesto bluntest warning so far that any commitment so clear and firm, attempts to alter or delay the and so strong a popular endorsement for its manifesto." But peers made their inten-

tion to delay the Bill clear, when Lord Pearson of Ran-Opening the last day on the noch, a Tory life peer, dismissed Bill's second reading, Lord the Lord Chancellor's comments as "threatening and Referring to peers' consti-

tutional convention not to wreck legislation set out in the governing party's manifesto. he said: "I do not believe that the Salisbury Convention was designed to facilitate the destruction of this House." Similarly, Lord Kingsland,

speaking for the Tories, said amend and vote against the Bill: "We will courageously vote for amendments to this Bill and, if gramme, through exchanges of need be, oppose it altogether." the upper House.

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Lord Weatherill insisted his compromise was "a genuine attempt to balance the principle and right of the Government to carry out its manifesto commitment and the rights equally of the Opposition parties".

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the former Labour prime minister, insisted: "I cannot see, trying to work through the programme, that we can introduce a reform measure until after the general election."

Viscount Cranborne, the former Tory leader in the Lords and one of the architects of the deal, warned the Lord Chancellor: "The Weatherill amendment is a least bad option. But I have to say to the Lord Chancellor that by his attempt to bushwhack the House this afternoon, he has not made our task any easier."

Peers were poised to defeat the Government in the early hours on a symbolic amendthey reserved the right to ment by Lord Cobbold, a crossbencher that criticises the Government for removing what we believe are the correct hereditaries before revealing its plans for a future make-up of



A member of the Disability Benefits Consortium protesting at Westminster yesterday against possible cuts in payments Andrew Buurman

Disabled 'betrayed' by proposed benefit cuts

FRANK FIELD, the former Social Security minister, launched his most vigorous attack to date on the Government's welfare plans when he claimed yesterday that £750m of benefit cuts would betray the disabled. Mr Field spoke out after dis-

WELFARE BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

a mass lobby of Parliament in

abled rights campaigners held protest at the Welfare Reform and Pension Bill currently pass-

ing through the House of Commons. The Disability Benefits Consortium, an umbrella group of more than 250 disabled groups, said that the Bill would from some of the most vulner-

abolition of the Severe Disablement Allowance.

Mr Field was joined by Lord Ashley of Stoke (Lab), chairremove crucial financial support man of the All-Party Parliamentary Disablement Group, and backbench MPs, including entitlement," Mr Field said.

The proposals include the Dr Lynne Jones (Lab, Birmingham Selley Oak). "The cuts break the specific promise to disabled people that any social security savings would come from helping them to find work and not from cutting

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'Extreme concern' over transport links to Dome

SENIOR MEMBERS of Parliament registered fresh anxieties yesterday about transport links to the £758m Millennium Dome and expressed concern over the building's future after the celebrations.

The House of Commons Culture Committee said that it was "extremely concerned" at pletion date. London Transport's apparentgency planning. The Tube route to the Dome is due to be completed in three phases with the final link open by 31 October. While a report by the committee welcomed the introduc-

CULTURE By BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

tion of new management of the construction of the London Underground Jubilee Line extension, there was still a "large question mark" over its com-

"The Dome can be viewed as ly casual attitude to contin- a journey into the future and we do not believe that a Heath Robinson journey across London represents an appropriate start to the day," the report said. Under the chairmanship of

Gerald Kaufman MP, the com-

agreement over a plan for short-term car parking at the site, saying that the attraction should be "car-free". The report into the Dome

mittee also registered its dis-

said that its opening celebration should remind people that the millennium was a Christian anniversary, but should not exclude devotees of other faiths or those of none.

Church leaders have indicated that the opening ceremony will be boycotted if the Archbishop of Canterbury is not allowed to usher in the new

The Rev Stephen Lynas, an Anglican minister and millennium spokesman for the UK's main churches, said that the committee's report was "vague" about the position of Christianity in the celebrations.

But the churches were satisfied with the Government's position on the issue, which presumably would take precedence over the deliberations of a select committee, he said.

The report criticised the New Millennium Experience Company for failing to say how tickets for the Dome would be made available to the public.

Cannabis 'no longer rebellious'

THE USE of cannabis is so commonplace among British schoolchildren that it is no longer regarded as an act of re-bellion, the drugs tsar Keith Hellawell admitted yesterday. Addressing the Home Affairs Select Committee, Mr

cannabis with drug-taking. "It's almost as if it has beBY IAN BURRELL Home Affairs Correspondent

actually beating the system and being a rebel or radical if you are taking the substance." In a frank exchange with Hellawell said many children MPs, Mr Hellawell, the UK's did not even associate smoking anti-drugs co-ordinator, admitted that the Government's strategy for fighting drugs was come marginalised," he said. unlikely to show any signs of Everybody does it. You are not success within three years.

safe from the growing problem of heroin use and some youngsters were taking it as their first illegal drug. Although many new heroin users have been introduced to the smokable form of the drug, some young users were now choosing to inject heroin to satisfy their increasing craving. Mr Hellawell said.

The drug tsar promised MPs that more of the £1.4bn spent annually on fighting drugs I will take my kids away'."

He said no community was would be allocated to education. which receives only 3 per cent

of the budget.

Mr Hellawell said ground had been lost by the reluctance of schools to take on board anti-drug messages. He said: "Up to four or five years ago it was taboo in schools to talk about drugs. It was outlawed by parents who said, If they are talking about drugs in school, it's a druggy school and

QUESTIONS

AND

ANSWERS

causes reached its highest

level so far in 1998 with

War on hooligans

SIMON BURNS, the Tory MP for Chelmsford West, published his Football (Offences and Disorder) Bill to close legal loopholes on racist and indecent chanting and ticket-touting, and to strengthen powers to deal with football hooligans, especially at overseas international matches. Mr Burns said he had worked closely with ministers in drafting the Bill.

Today's agenda

Commons, 9.30am: Backbench debates on secondary education in Plympton; A500 scheme Stoke on Trent; Chelmsford Prison. 3pm: Welsh Questions:

THE HOUSE

Prime Minister's Questions; Employment Relations Bill; debate on prescription charges for cystic fibrosis sufferers.

Lords, 2.30pm: Debates on car theft and role of design. Parliament rises today for the Easter break. The Lords returns on Monday, 12 April and the Commons on Tuesday, 13 April.

Iraq attack THE COST to date of the

bombs dropped on Iraq by British forces in Operation Desert Fox and subsequent actions was £4m, Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, disclosed.

Safety push

planning to "inject a new impetus" into the health and safety agenda to mark the 25th anniversary of the Health and Safety at Work Act, Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, announced.

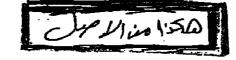
Lottery income THE TOTAL income from the

National Lottery for good

£1.95bn The original amount in the National Lottery's THE GOVERNMENT is first full year in 1995 was £1.34bn.

Freud squad MINISTERS ARE

considering measures that will make the registration of people offering psychological counselling a statutory requirement, the Health minister John Denham indicated.



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d species Pinochet could be tried in Britain

THE SPANISH judge seeking to extradite Augusto Pinochet to Spain has said he will cooperate in seeing the former Chilean dictator tried in Britain, should Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, decide not to grant his extradition request. After last week's decision by

the law lords to reduce greatly the number of charges against the general, Judge Bal-tasar Garzon has insisted, in documents sent to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), he still wants General Pinochet, 83, to be tried in Spain.

But he grants British legal authorities access to all the documents in the case "so they can proceed in England against Senator Pinochet if the extradition process is discontinued".

Judge Garzon's gesture came in response to a request made on Friday by the CPS for permission to allow British police to go through all the evidence submitted from Spain. He said that if extradition was blocked he "would have no legal objection to the case being prosecuted in England, if English laws permit".

Judge Garzon drastically reworked his case against General Pinochet after the law lords decided last Wednesday to throw out most of the charges. By a 6-1 majority, they called for the general's case to be reconsidered as they cut the charges upon which he could be

The judge has submitted details of 40 cases of torture and death that occurred after the 29 September 1988 watershed - the date Britain recognised in Madrid

torture as a universal crime and before General Pinochet stood down in 1990.

To the eight cases contained in the original indictment Judge Garzon has added 32 new ones to support the charges of torture and conspiracy to torture. Among them are those of Manuel Canales, who had electrodes placed against his temple and against a testicle during interrogation: and of Pablo Apablaza, who was illegally detained and blind-folded, and had an empty pistol fired three times against his head, and electric current applied to his genitals.

In addition, Judge Garzon has reminded British prosecutors of 1,198 forced disappearances that remain unresolved: "a permanent, live crime" that qualifies as torture under the 1992 UN Declaration on the Protection of Disappeared Persons. Lawyers close to Judge Garzon emphasise that the reduced number of charges imposed by the law lords in no way lessens the force of the case against the general.

Mr Straw has until 15 April to rule on whether extradition should proceed. Even if he decides to go no further, most Spaniards believe that General Pinochet's reputation lies in number of human rights ruins and that no dictator can now escape justice. Judge Garzon, they feel, has already won.

General Pinochet himself remains under house arrest in Surrey, with his legal team claiming that he is condemned to a "custodial limbo".





Betjeman's 'pleasant acres' in danger

"HOW LONG before the pleasant acres ... are rolled across by limestone breakers", asked John Betjeman in his poem

Matlock Bath. Sadly, the answer is now. Vast areas of countryside are being scarred by the quarrying industry - including the Derbyshire moorland that inspired the late Poet Laureate. A report today from the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) urges the Government to protect landscapes made famous by writers such as Betjeman and Geoffrey

Chaucer. Betjeman was a trifle late on the scene when he penned his immortal words on Matlock Bath. People have been quarrying in the area since Roman

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

the current operations would horrify the poet.

Fleets of eight-wheeler lorries thunder through the area, carrying hundreds of thousands of tons of gritstone. This year, six to seven million tons of limestone will be quarried from the nearby Peak District National Park.

But John Anfield, the park's head of planning, took exception to one local's description of beautiful landscapes being turned into eerie moonscapes.

"Quarrying is a continuing challenge to efforts to conserve the park's beauty and we take a robust approach to any new applications," Mr Anfield said "Every effort is made to times - but the arithmetic of stop quarrying creating eye-

and tree-planting.

"The industry is a big local employer but we have to remember what the park is all about. Keeping the balance is a great challenge," he added. Emily Richmond of the

by John Betjeman How long before the pleasant acres Of intersecting Lovers'

limestone breakers. Whole woodlands snapp'd like cabbage stalks? O God, our help in ages

How long will Speedwell

sores, with careful landscaping council said yesterday: "Moorand tree-planting. council said yesterday: "Moorand which John Betjeman wrote about in his poem Mutlock Bath is now being quar-

ried for limestone in the Peak National Park. In Kent, the ragstone which forms a band to the north of the Pilgrims' Way,

From Matlock Bath

Walks Are rolled across by



from quarrying. As you visit areas of south-west England or northern England particularly, you can see huge swaths of landscape have been cut out. This has major implications for our cultural history." The council has used parts

of the countryside with strong literary associations to illustrate the threat posed to the environment by extraction of minerals such as sand, gravel and crushed rock.

Its report, Quarry Conwhen the Government is reviewing its quarrying policy.

In addition to areas that have already been scarred, from damaging quarries and local authorities have permission to quarry a further four

featured in Chaucer's Can- and a half billion tons of minterbury Tales, is under threat erals. The council wants new laws that will lead to planning consent being refused where there is already an excessive supply of land to quarry.

The Government is currently waiting for the quarrying industry to make proposals on how it can minimise harm caused to the countryside but the council believes voluntary measures will be insufficient.

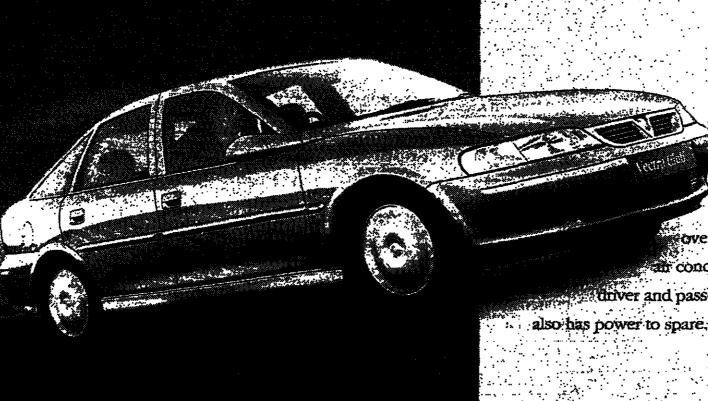
Ms Richmond added: "Minerals planning policy risks being stuck in a time warp as the Government begins to flicts, is published at a time green up its act on transport and new housing.

"We need a fresh approach which protects the countryside reduces the demand for building materials."

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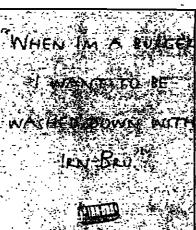
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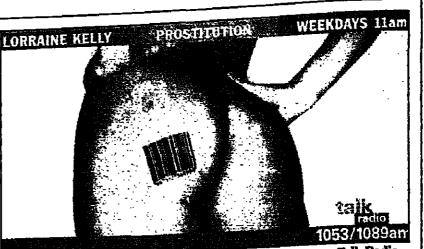
YOUR











Adverts that use images of human sex or cruelty to animals received the most public complaints last year. They included ones for the soft drink Irn-Bru, Nicky Clarke shampoo, TCP throat lozenges and a show on Talk Radio Bovine joke was the most reviled advert of the year

A MOURNFUL looking Jersey cow peers out of what has emerged as the most reviled poster advertisement of 1998. "I want to be washed down

with Irn-Bru."

The watchdog, which polices non-broadcast advertisements has highlighted the need for When I'm a burger," she says, in the UK, disagreed with the advertisers to be more aware complainants, concluding that of public sensitivities when the majority seeing it would not portraying women. According to the annual be offended. But the Irn-Bru report of the Advertising Stan-dards Authority, published throat lozenges featuring a caused problems because of today, the bovine musings man with a tiger wrapped prompted 589 complaints - the around his neck have most for a single poster or prompted warnings from the a national unease about the

the statement said, "the ASA

"But in 1998, those that The ASA's identification of

The most controversial TV ad of last year featured a dead pet hamster called Kevin. His tragic demise was brought on by the breakdown of his wheel. "Kevin grew bored and died," said a voiceover, before the dead creature was prodded with a pencil.

The film prompted 519 com-

mission ruled that it did not breach its code, but insisted that it be broadcast after the

9pm watershed. The other common theme of the year was public concern about the depiction of religion and related symbols. The Sunday Times provoked 142 compress advertisement last year. ASA that advertisers need to commercial exploitation of plaints, a level of outrage to promote a series on the pho-

take more care when portraying animals. "In past reports," with concerns expressed about the statement said, "the ASA agreed that the image of the statement model on the cross was "tasteless, provocative and blasphemous to Christians".

The authority also took a similarly dim view of a Diesel jeans magazine and poster advertisement that featured four young women dressed as nuns from the waist up, wearing jeans and holding rosaries. Behind was the Virgin Mary,

per cent cotton," read the copy.
"The finest denim clothing.
"The finest denim clothing."

Other ads that attracted complaints included ones for Nicky Clarke shampoo and Talk Radio. The shampoo commercial showed a naked woman perched on the shoulders of a naked man washing ceived 131 complaints. The Talk Radio poster for a Lor-

Overall, the number of complaints increased over the previous year (12,217 as against 10.676 in 1997). The ASA felt that this did not represent a general attempt on the part of advertisers to shock but instead reflected a high degree of popular concern with a handful of campaigns.

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2 INSERT THE MISSING PAIR.

3 FIND THE ODD ONE OUT.

4 WHICH OF THESE SHAPES DOES NOT BELONG?

OMPLETES THE FIRST AND

6 OND THE WORD THAT CAN BE PREFIXED BY THE FOLLOWING.

7 LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE FOLLOWING EQUATION. IS IT TRUE OR IS IT SO MIND NUMBINGLY AMAZING YOU CAN'T QUITE GET YOUR HEAD ROUND IT?

WOLF is to FLOW as 8526 is to...?









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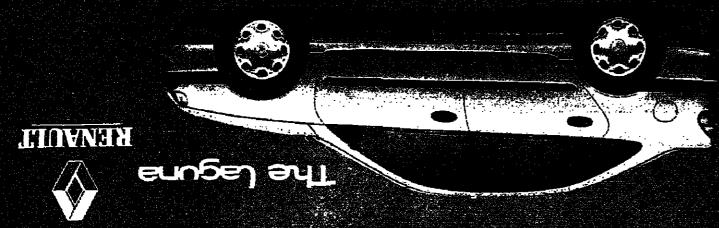
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Channel 5 criticised for 'tacky' sex shows

THE GOVERNMENT'S televi- By Paul McCann sion watchdog has taken the highly unusual step of describing Channel 5 as "tacky" in its clude sex for sex's sake should annual report, because of the be allowed on free-to-air chanbroadcaster's use of sex to at-nels in the UK.

failing to broadcast more cur- called the BSC "anachronistic rent affairs programmes and and patronising" for imposing for having only "adequate" cov- its taste on the public. Howeverage of the Nato action in Yu- er, the ITC can fine channels or goslavia during prime time this even take away licences. The

The Independent Television Commission, which regulates for increasing its ratings and incommercial channels, singled troducing new programmes, a out Channel 5's late-night "erot- detailed reading of the chanic dramas" and factual shows nel's performance showed it for criticism in its evaluation of now airs the lowest amount of during 1998.

Channel 5 was criticised for having a high number of breaches of the ITC programme code during the year and for "the tackiness associated with an increased use of low-budget erotic drama in the evening and of various factual programmes on sexual themes".

Factual programmes such as The Real Monty, Swindon Superbabes, Stags and Hens and On the Piste were described as "overly voyeuristic" while the explicitness of Sex and Shopping was "unsuitable for broadcast at any time".

This is the second serious criticism of the channel this year. The Broadcasting Standards Commission said its erotic series, Compromising Situations and Hotline, raised significant issues about whether programmes that in-

At the time, Channel 5's ITV was also criticised for chief executive, David Elstein, BSC has few powers.

While the ITC praised ITV current affairs in its history. ITV produced just one hour and 25 minutes of current affairs per week in 1998. In 1997, the regulator had asked ITV to increase the amount of factual programming it broadcasts and last year it doubled its 1997 output. However, most of the new programmes were so-called docu-soaps, or observational documentaries, and the ITC wants ITV to return to more thoughtful documentaries.

■ The BBC has admitted it was wrong to allow a number of jokes about masturbation in the Christmas Day episode of Men Behaving Badly. The BBC admitted its mistake after the Broadcasting Standards Commission yesterday upheld complaints from 18 viewers about the content of the programme. The BBC said it misiudged the different nature of the Christmas night audience.

Waiting list pledge met, says Dobson

A FALL in the number of pec- By MAXINE FRITH ple waiting for NHS treatment in England means the Government has fulfilled its pledge to cut queues to below preelection levels, Frank Dobson said yesterday.

The Secretary of State for Health said the reduction was a "magnificent achievement" and reflected the "massive efforts" of NHS staff.

The Conservatives, however, accused Mr Dobson of fiddling the figures. They claimed many people were now waiting longer for an initial hospital appoint-

ment that would allow them to go on the official waiting lists. The number of people waiting for treatment fell by 39,700 in February. The total now stands at 1,119,700 - 38,000 below the figure on 1 May 1997.

Mr Dobson also announced new targets yesterday to increase the number of initial outpatient appointments next year. But the British Medical Association said it would be "impossible" to meet the targets without more consultants.

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Sportswomen hampered by myths about weaker sex

WOMEN HAVE been held back from attaining the heights of sporting achievement by myths about their inferior capabilities compared with men, according to an expert who has made a

study of their progress. Years of being barred from competitive sport on the basis of mistaken theories about the damage it would cause to the female body have left women trailing men in most sports. But they are catching up fast, says Ellis Cashmore, professor of sociology at Staffordshire

Writing in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, Professor Cashmore says: "The question is not why women lag so far behind men but how they have managed to make up so much ground so quickly." He cites women's marathon

running, a sport from which women were banned on health grounds until a few decades ago. Since 1964, women's times have improved by an annual average of two minutes and 47 seconds compared with just 66 seconds for men. Already women frequently beat men in long-distance swimming and also in equestrian events.

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Professor Cashmore said sterday: "Competition has a habit of bringing out excellence. If you turned back the clock to the end of the 19th cen-

competition to men and women it is likely women would be competing at a much higher level than they are today.

Research in the 1920s and 1930s perpetuated the view of first laid down at the turn of the century when it was suggested the enfeebling effects of menstruction were best offset with "homely gymnastics", otherwise known as housework. Determined sportswomen were thought of as odd, unfermine

and moral degenerates. But this "so perfectly suited general views about women and the division of labour, that they were eagerly accepted as fact by a British society encrusted in patriarchy", Professor Cash-The myths about the damage women athletes were doing

to themselves acted as a powerful deterrent to others thinking of taking up sport. Mildred (Babe) Didrickson, the US basketball champion and track and field star of the 1930s, who later became a top-class golfer, blamed her sport for her failure to conceive. Professor Cashmore said: "It was typical of women's attitude to sport that they feared it would make them



Track and field champion Mildred 'Babe' Didrickson (left) blamed her failure to conceive on sport, but Olympic gold medal runner Fanny Blankers-Koen showed that childbearing and sport could be compatible

Fanny Blankers-Koen, a Dutch runner, won four gold medals at the 1948 London Olympics in the sprints, hurdles and relay. competitive sport. "Quite a few Aged 30, she was already a mother and people started to sabbatical and found when they think that perhaps childbearing returned they were better than ever. The Irish runner Sonia

mothers and returned later to tends to return," said Professor Apart from some strength

sports such as weightlifting, there is no reason why women should not ultimately com-

Since then many female O'Sullivan is taking a year out pete on equal terms with men, sportswomen have become to have a baby and says she in- he said. "It is at least possible that in all sports that demand skill as opposed to pure brawn, peting at levels comparable with their male counterparts."

Man Utd fans face 14% hike in ticket cost

SUPPORTERS OF Manchester United, the country's biggest football club, were told yesterday that they will have to pay for the players' wage demands through more expensive tickets. The club's fans reacted with anger to the news that ticket

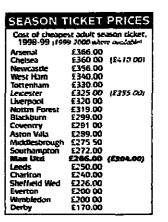
prices would rise by up to 14 per cent next season. The increase in prices will come into force from August

when tickets will go up by £2. The cheapest seat for the club's Old Trafford ground will cost £16 and the most expensive £22. Season tickets will now cost between £304 and £418. The club revealed yesterday

that signing expensive new stars and a rising players' wage bill had pulled down its half-year profits from £15.4m to £11.1m. Alex Ferguson, the United

manager, spent heavily last summer in an attempt to beef up his squad before mounting a renewed assault on the Premier League title and the European Champions League. Top players were brought in at a total cost of more than £28m.

The new stars' wage demands, combined with new contracts for established players such as David Beckham and Ryan Giggs, pushed up United's wage bill by £3m in the six months to the end of January. The figure includes Sue Arnold, Review, page 4 | £750,000 of player bonuses for



reaching the knock-out stages of the Champions League.

United is also pressing ahead with a £30m project to add 12,400 seats to its stadium. taking the capacity to 67,400. David Gill. United's finance

director, defended the increases: "If you look at the Premier League, we are currently ranked 15th out of 20 clubs in terms of ticket prices. These rises lift us to night, but that is before the others push through their own increases

However, the price rises provoked outrage from United fans. Lee Hodgkiss, a spokesman for the Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association, said: "The traditional supporters are now being priced out of the game. The club are acting cynically. It

K Show. Hi-tech gadgets have female appeal

A NEW breed of woman, the BY CHARLES ARTHUR techno-ladette, is stalking the

A survey of female attitudes has found that women are just men are - but that the mostly male advertisers and markethow to communicate with women.

puters and mobile phones, or connecting up to the Internet, according to new research by the marketing company Cohn

are at ease with technology such as Meg Ryan in the film You've Got Mail or the female Technology Editor

ries Bugs. "Interest levels in new technology are genderblind," said James Murphy, a dias interested in technology as rector at Cohn & Wolfe and the author of the report.

Mobile phone sales to ing executives who are selling women were up 24 per cent last in 1996 men's magazines conyear, and computer sales were tained almost 20 times more their interest in technical de-Thus, women do not feel tails when buying a computer, well-informed when it comes to more women than men were inbuying equipment such as com- terested - 30 per cent compared with 27 per cent.

purchase, only 8 per cent of the women felt confident. A similar Women have a growing exercise-choosing a company number of role models who to provide Internet access exercise - choosing a company showed similar levels of interest and splits in confidence.

Many women complained of being patronised by salesmen

- who were mostly male - or ignored altogether in favour of their male companions.

"The marketing of technology fails to bridge the gap between women's interest levels and their claimed confidence." Mr Murphy said. He also pointed out statistics showing that computer advertising than did

women's magazine. But he believes that advertisers can ease the problem by "embracing and shaping" the aspirations of the "sophisticat-Yet when it came to rating ed techno-femme". Mobile their confidence in making a phones are a particular target, with advertisers currently focusing on the phones' small

> "Old assumptions about the marketing of technological products may in practice be hurting sales and damaging brands," Mr Murphy said.

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accounts with the Bank of Eng- contract arose from the long-

THE CONTROVERSIAL British BY PAUL LASHMAR security firm Sandline won a Guinea government over unpaid fees of \$18m (£11.3m).

land that was aborted and appeal against a 1998 interna-

court battle in Australia yes- nearly caused a coup in 1997. terday against the Papua New Colonel Tim Spencer, Sandline executive and Falklands hero, was arrested and deported. The ruling follows Sandline's Queensland supreme court involvement in an anti-terror- said it had no jurisdiction to ist operation on Bougainville Is- hear Papua New Guinea's

tional tribunal order that it pay the money. Sandline hired investigators and bailiffs to find and freeze bank accounts across the world held by Papua New Guinea.

"Sandline knows where Papua New Guinea's assets are. The state can run but it cannot hide," said a company

ther costs in a futile attempt to

pect, that the government will controversial operations. It was behave responsibly and meet at the centre of the 'Arms to its liability without wasting fur- Sierra Leone' scandal that caused great embarrassment delay the inevitable." The com- to the Foreign Office and to pany has already taken action Robin Cook, the Foreign Secagainst Papua New Guinea's retary. The Papua New Guinea

secessionists on Bougainville. The Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Papua

New Guinea turned to Sandline, "security consultants" based in London, after rebels on Bougainville had cut off a vital copper mine. In 1997 they con-

spokesman. "Sandline would hope although it does not expect that the approximant and management in the provide in a number of government and Melanesian itery personnel and equipment iters are the personnel and equipment iter and paid \$18m of the agreed \$36m fee up-front. But the involvement of foreign troops angered the army, which threatened mutiny.

The new government of Bill Skate has refused to pay the outstanding half of the fee. It

previous administration was illegal and unconstitutional Sandline appealed and the tribunal was convened, which unanimously awarded in favour

NOTHINITE

of Sandline. The judges ruled that under international law the contract

Le Pen blow as old ally defects

LIFE CONTINUES to be un- By JOHN LICHFIELD pleasant to Jean-Marie Le Pen. The leader of the far right National Front party has been abandoned by yet another ally,

this time Jean Marie Le Chevallier, the mayor of Toulon, who is one of his oldest politi-Mr Le Pen has been caught in Belgium with a small arsenal of dangerous weapons in the boot of his car. His position

in the opinion polls is slipping close to the point where he could lose all credibility as a force in French politics. As if this were not enough. a court began hearings yesterday to decide who has the legitimate right to the National Front's name, symbol and cash. If Mr Le Pen loses, he could be forced to share all three with Bruno Mégret, the long-time

up his own rival party, the National Front National Movement, in January. The breakaway party has difficulties of its own. After rising to 6 per cent in the polls -1 per cent above the mark that it must reach to scoop seats and public subsidies in the European elections in June -Mr Mégret's movement has melted back down to 4 per

But Mr Le Pen's "official" National Front is scarcely doing better. The most recent polls before the split. If confirmed at the European election, this would be the xenophobic and ultra-nationalist party's lowest score for

Mr Le Pen, 70, is manifestly rattled and behaving erratically, even by his in Paris

own standards. When Belgian police found a loaded semiautomatic rifle, 50 cartridges, and two tear gas grenades in his car in Brussels, he claimed to have been the victim of a sting operation and railed at a local television crew in an insulting, mock-Belgian accent.

The defection of Mr Le Chevallier, the mayor of Toulon - who has declared himself an independent - is especially damaging to Mr Le Pen. The two had been friends for 24 years and political allies for 15 years. Toulon was the jewel in the NF's crown, the largest town it had ever won.

The mayor's defection reduces the number of town halls under Mr Le Pen's control to second force in the NF, who set one - Orange in the Rhône valley. Two other NF-controlled towns, in the Marseilles outer suburbs, have gone with Bruno Mégret, as have more than half of all the party's local councillors nationwide.

Mr Le Chevallier said that he was quitting the NF because he could no longer tolerate Mr Le Pen's unpredictable behaviour and his inability to "share

The two men are said to have fallen out several years ago, partly over the increasing influence of Mr Le Chevallier's surveys give the NF only 6 per ambitious wife, Cendrine. Mr spoken to Cendrine Le Chevallier since 1995.

The mayor of Toulon has, so far, refused to join forces with Mr Mégret, whom he detests. It is thought more likely that he will rejoin the "traditional" right, from which he defected to join Mr Le Pen in 1983.



Aftershocks hit Indian quake area as death toll rises to 110

SEVERE AFTERSHOCKS hampered rescue workers' efforts restenday to reach survivors of Monday's earthquake in the Himalayan foothills of northern

Witnesses report that people have been using their hands to dig through piles of stone and mud to reach buried relatives in the town of Chamoli, the epicentre of the earthquake, believed to be entombed in rubble. The official death toll of 110 is expected to rise further.

Landslides triggered by the earthquake – which, at 6.8 on the Richter scale, was the biggest in the region for 90 years - have cut communications with many of the affected

By JASON BURKE

areas. Indian Air Force planes and helicopters were flying sorties yesterday over the earthquake zone, dropping aid to survivors in remote villages around Chamoli. Many are still without shelter or electricity and have had almost all their food stocks buried. The extent of the damage in the area was

Shridhar Pathak, Chamoli's senior police officer, said a total of 14 villages had been reported as "destroyed" and that lages are far higher. Although about 90 per cent of Chamoli itself - the local administrative

centre - had been damaged. Nearly 150 people had been rescued from collapsed houses

so far, Mr Pathak said, and several hundred injured were being treated by military medics in makeshift hospitals. At least 5,000 people have been made homeless.

Last night, thousands more villagers spent a third night in the open for fear of further damage from the aftershocks some registering four on the Richter scale - which continued

Chamoli is at an altitude of nearly 1,070 metres (3,500ft) and many of the affected vil-

winter is over, the nights are still cold. 12.35am on Monday when most

people were asleep. Entire fam-

ilies were wiped out. One local resident told reporters that five members of his family of pled." he told a local reporter. seven had died Another described how he

had spent Monday night digging in the debris of his house with a shovel, only to find two buried relatives dead. Six prisoners were killed when the Chamoli jail collapsed. "For a minute, all the earth

ran out of our houses very, very scared," said Himanshu Thapliyal, 28, a lawyer in Biyasi, a small town near Chamoli.

Romesh Sharma, a teacher in Chamoli, said he rushed out of his house when he heard "a buildings around him collapse. hari Vajpayee.

"I ran for my life to the police station but that, too, had crum-

Another Chamoli resident

said the earthquake felt as "if the earth was coming apart and the mountains were coming crashing down on the villages' The 40-second jolt cracked buildings 185 miles (300km)

away in the capital, Delhi, and was felt in neighbouring Pak-

Pakistani officials said the earthquake shook the eastern cities of Lahore and Gujranwala. The officials said Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, had sent a message of sympathy to his terrific noise", only to see the Indian counterpart, Atal Bi-

Yeltsin speech lands a punch

BY PHIL REEVES in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN defied the odds yesterday by delivering his state-of-the-nation speech without disasters, and even landing a punch on the chin of his prime minister by warning him against a "revanche".

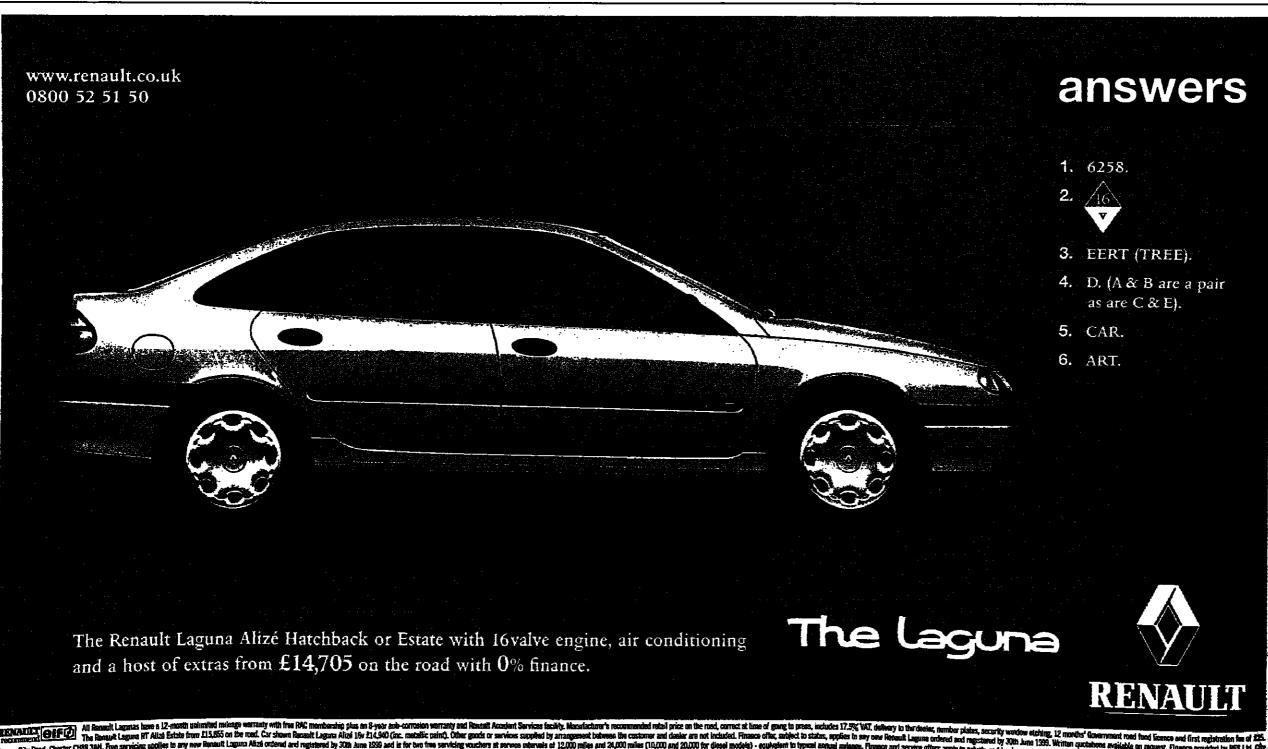
His long-awaited speech to parliament, though delivered confidently enough, was far from vintage Yeltsin, being bereft of emotion, let alone passion. It was only 18 minutes long as he chose to deliver more detailed views on the economy in the form of a written report.

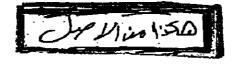
It came at a difficult time, even though Russia was patting itself on the back yesterday after winning an agreement for an IMF loan, the amount to be announced, which looks suspiciously like a Western pay-off to ease Moscow's injured feelings over the Balkans.

In the twilight months of his reign, Mr Yeltsin is overburdened by problems: a shattered economy, attempts by his opponents to curb his powers and even impeach him, chronic ill-health and a corruption investigation that strikes to the heart of the Kremlin.

Bespectacled these days, he looks weary and remote - more the semi-retired chairman of the board, a vague figurehead who knows nothing of day-today details, than an active chief executive. But he got through the performance, his first major speech for months, without serious hiccups, albeit also without much applause. In fact, Mr Yeltsin - or at least his speechwriters - even proved there is fight in him yet.

He took several swipes at his premier. Yevgeny Primakov. who was in Belgrade trying to broker peace. He praised the country through the perilous months after last August's economic crash, but he also delivered a warning against "new centralisation" - a return, in other words, to Soviet-style interventionism at the expense . of market economics and individual freedoms.





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Yeltsin



Killing puts trash talk shows on trial in US

mericans will have another in New York eason to watch daytime television: if they tune to Court TV they will be able to watch the trial of, well, daytime TV. Or, more specifically, the trial of trash-talk TV, that special brand of "humilitainment" brought Springer and Ricki Lake.

In the dock in a Pontiac courthouse just outside Detroit will be another exemplar of the trash-talk formula, The Jenny Jones Show.

If you have not seen it, you may remember this about it: four years ago one of its guests How could this happen?" was murdered by another

one was homosexual, the other, apparently, was most avowedly On 9 March 1995 the execu-

tive producer of the show broke the news to Ms Jones about the His subsequent distress, they awful fallout from the programme that had been about same-sex crushes. "We've just not in doubt. The producers of heard that one of our guests has murdered another guest," Ed Galvin informed her. As the Detroit News reports it, Ms Jones was dumbstruck. She replied: "There must be a mistake.

It did happen, and it is the guest after they had appeared family of the victim, Scott Ame-

ers. Telepictures, and Warner Brothers, the overall owner of the programme, for \$50m (£31m). They will contend, in arguments due to begin today,

erately humiliated by the show. will say, drove him to murder. The sequence of events is the show invited Schmitz, a man with a troubled mental background, to come on to the programme because, they said,

that Amedure's assailant,

Jonathan Schmitz, was delib-

he had a secret admirer who would come forward on air. Schmitz duly turned up for the taping of the show.

To his evident astonishment, together on the programme. dure, who are now suing The his admirer turned out to be a miliation on Schmitz. It showed who was convicted last week of Both guests were young men; Jenny Jones Show, its produc- man. He was Amedure, whom a tape of Amedure confessing

The show was never broad-

cast. But three days after the taping, Schmitz barged into the trailer-park home of Amedure and fired twice into his chest with a shotgun. Schmitz telephoned the emergency services to say he had killed a man who had embarrassed him on

national television. Schmitz was later convicted of murder, but is awaiting a second trial after his first conviction was overturned on a

Lawyers for the Amedure family will argue that the show's producers deliberately sought to inflict maximum hu-

- allegedly loosened by alcohol provided by the producers - to his favourite homosexual fantasy about Schmitz. It involved a hammock, some whipped cream, champagne and straw-

Geoffrey Fieger, who will represent the plaintiffs, plans to bring veterans of the talk show industry to the stand, including Morton Downey Jr. "They'll explain to the jury what the basis of these shows are, and that is to increase advertising dollars by raising audience share," he said. "That's the only reason for the existence of these trials."

Mr Fieger is famous as the lawyer of Dr Jack Kevorkian,

Pager service tip-offs for car chase addicts

AMERICAN TIMES

LOS ANGELES

wheel-drive, speeding away from a column of police squad cars through the San Fernando Valley - all captured, live, on television

"This could be interesting. Zoom in! Zoom in!" shouted the over-excited KCAL correspondent to the cameraman as they swooped above the action in a helicopter. The suspect managed to jam three police cars in a loop thanks to a deft 360-degree turn before roaring up on to the pavement of a busy shopping street in Van Nuys.

"There's someone with a child approaching the car. Oh no, get away, get away!" the correspondent, Larry Welk, pleaded with the two figures appearing on the television screen. It was hard to tell if he was dreading the prospect of a pedestrian getting kidnapped or flattened, or if he

By now the other local networks, Fox and UPN and KCBS, were interrupting regular programming to bring their own footage of the chase. After what seemed an endless tease between pursuer and pursued, the four-wheel-drive zoomed into a shopping centre car park, crashed through a fence into a storage area and finally came to an ignominious halt after trying to ram a squad car blocking its exit.

"We have gunfire! We have gunfire!" screeched Larry Welk. And sure enough, as the suspect was at last apprehended, he was hauled on to an ambulance to be treated for bullet wounds.

Welcome to Los Angeles' favourite obsession, the television car chase. There's usually one every couple of days and, thanks to the ever-vigilant television helicopter teams that scour the smoggy skies above the City of Angels, no twist or turn goes unbroadcast for more than the few minutes it takes to locate the scene of the drama. Soan operas and dzytime chatshows get kickęd

AS THEY say around bere, it off the air to make room for was a real doozy. A wanted live coverage, and then the criminal, in a black fournews bulletins rehash it all later in the day.

Who knows why everyone is so obsessed with them, but they are. Maybe it's because Los Angeles is the perfect backdrop for such minidramas - vast, anonymous and chock-a-block with roadways. Maybe it's because the chases are just like scenes out of Hollywood action films, complete with the assurance that the hot pursuit will eventually lead to some tight spot or dead end where the perpetrator will at last get his (or her) come-uppance.

Whatever the reason, they are certainly money-spinners,



and not just for the networks whose viewing figures soar while the chase is on. Ask Ken Kirwahara, for a start. He is an enterprising former cop who has come up with the idea of a paging service for television car chases. Pay him a few dollars a month and he will alert you the second a juicy chase pops up on the small screen.

That may sound sick (indeed the complaints section on his website includes a message proclaiming "It's sick!") but the service has proved to be a roaring success since its inception in January. There are even cash prizes for those who alert the service to a chase. Thanks to Mr Kuwahara,

subscribers were able to tune in to last month's split-screen

carried on simultaneously, or to last week's excitement as the alleged miscreant's car spun out of control, hurtled through a brick wall and was left suspended in mid-air with wreckage and tumbling bricks clattering all around.

Most of the subscribers to the Pursuit Watch Network are young men with testosterone to spare, but not all. "I for one am tripped when my pager goes off and it says HOT PURSUIT" one grandmother writes on the service's website. "If Γm at home, the scanner and TV goes on and the map comes up on my

computer to follow 'em." The mother of all LA car chases was O J Simpson's unsuccessful attempt to elude the police in his white Ford Bronco in 1994 - a chase that not only made national and international headlines but was also captured in its entirety by a traffic-monitoring belicopter. By now all the local networks have helicopters dedicated entirely to car chases and correspondents who spend their lives in the air praying for a really juicy shoot-out or

It's not all fun. Last year, 31 bystanders were killed during police chases in Los Angeles the highest rate of any US city - and there are plenty of people who suspect the foolhardy high jinks leading to such accidents are due at least in part to the presence of the television cameras.

"Most of the people who do this aren't the really bad guys," explains Geoffrey Alpert, a criminologist. "Serious criminals try to blend in. The people who run do it for stunid reasons - they're afraid of the points on their insurance, or police once beat them up, or they don't want their parents to know they bor-

rowed the car." Stupid, perhaps; danger-ous, certainly. But, for the networks, the pager junkies and the viewers, it's still great entertainment.

ANDREW GUMBEL

Hong Kong stems immigrant flood

THE HONG Kong government breathed a sigh of relief yes- in Hong Kong terday when a court finally gave it some support in its atimmigrants from the Chinese

answers

the Court of Final Appeal tempts to hold back a flood of opened the door to as many as a million people on the mainland who have the right to live The administration fears in Hong Kong because one of that a decision last month by their parents is a local resident.

migrants was rejected by a lower court, with the judge saying the unrestricted entry of so many immigrants would create an "unbearable burden" that

could "sink Hong Kong". Regina Ip, Hong Kong's Sec-

Yesterday, however, an application by a group of would-be She said the court had given the government the authority to deport the mainlanders and urged the rest to go home.

Up to 1,000 people are immediately affected by the ruling, many of whom face arrest if

they return to the mainland.

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IN BRIEF

Man held over 135 killings

DOZENS OF police cars guarded Fernando Hernandez Leyva, who is suspected of involvement in 135 killings in five southern Mexican states. as he was transferred to prison. The escort was to shield him from victims' families and to prevent him escaping, as he had done twice before.

Japan protest

JAPAN HAS instructed its diplomats in Peking and New York to lodge a protest with North Korea, saying that its neighbour sent two spy ships into Japanese territorial waters last week. The ships fled toward North Korean waters after ignoring orders to stop.

Rwandan held TANZANIA HAS arrested

Bernard Ntuyahaga, a former Rwandan army officer, wanted by both Belgium and Rwanda for his alleged role in some of the first killings of the 1994 genocide. The dead included the Rwandan prime minister.

Vibrator ruling AN ALABAMA state law

banning the sale of vibrators has been overturned by a judge for bearing no "relation to a legitimate state interest", after a challenge by women who claimed the devices were necessary for sexual pleasure they could not get otherwise.

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- How Rupert Murdoch + Canal Plus are battling to divide up Europe's TV
- Is Tomkins a fashion victim or fatally flawed?
- Who's funding the Internet frenzy?
- Revealed: the biggest noise in

the music biz

BAT chairman's pay hits £1,017,394

MARTIN BROUGHTON, chairman of British American Tobacco, saw his pay package rise by nearly a third to £1,017,394 in 1998, and exercised options in BAT shares which gave him pre-tax gains worth another £970,054. Mr Broughton, who joined the group in 1971, took home £771,763 in 1997.

Last year BAT demerged its financial services division. principally Eagle Star, and folded it into Allied Zurich. The group also merged its tobacco interests with Rothmans to form one of the biggest cigarette makers in the world. The Right Honorable Kenneth Clarke MP, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, is non-executive deputy chairman of BAT and also chairs the remuneration

DTI may change energy levy

THE GOVERNMENT is considering radical changes to the levy used to fund renewable sources of energy in a bid to reduce electricity bills. The Department of Trade and Industry is planning to replace the present levy. which electricity companies have to pass on to customers, with a system where suppliers have the option to shoulder the levy without charging customers. The proposal, contained in a government consultation paper on renewable energy, could cut up to 1 per cent from the average £350 annual bill.

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US	5.00	-0 69	5.28	-0.5 9			5.63	0.35	
Japan	0.19	-0 52	0.25	-0 43	1.74	-0.15	2.48	0.01	
Germany	2.98	-0.59	2.98	-0.B4	4.05	-0.88	5.04	-0.47	

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Euro	1,4992	-0 70c	1.4079	Euro	0.9291	-14.31c	0.8571
Yen	193 63	+40 48	221.20	Yen	120.15	+¥0 44	131,97
£ index	103 20	-0.60	108.70	S index	108.90	+0.10	110.30
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OTHER INDICATORS								
	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Og	Yr ago	Ke et figs
rent Oil	(S) 14 46	0.00	14 28	GDP	115 40	3.00	112.04	Mar
iold (5)	279.55	-0.90	301.40	RPI	163.70	2.10	160.33	Mar

Japan (yen)

Malaysia (ringgits)

TOURIST RATES

Australia (S)	2.4828	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14,1
Austria (schillings)	20.05	Netherlands (guilders)	3.216
Belgium (francs)	58.96	New Zealand (S)	2.916
Canada (S)	2.3828	Norway (kroner)	12.2
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8435	Portugal (escudos)	291.0
Denmark (kroner)	10.91	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.890
Finland (markka)	8.7212	Singapore (S)	2.560
France (francs)	9.5824	South Africa (rands)	9.625
Germany (marks)	2.8652	Spain (pesetas)	242.5
Greece (drachma)	476.33	Sweden (kronor)	13.1
Hong Kong (\$)	12.14	Switzerland (francs)	2,342
(punts)	1.1478	Thailand (bahes)	55.2
Indian (rupees)	61.67	Turkey (lirasi)	57320
Israel (shekels)	6.0562	USA (S)	1.579
Italy (lira)	2840		
	100 15	Base for indicate and	

<u>5.8474</u>

Source: Thomas Cook

Biggest jump in house prices since 1997

recorded their biggest increase since September 1997, according to new figures from Nationwide.

It was the latest sign that the

"House price inflation could be heading back towards double figures," said Jonathan Loynes, an economist at HSBC Mar-

from its winter downturn.

Nationwide, which publishes one of two monthly house price Nationwide's for the past two

Economics Editor

indices, said prices jumped by 1.5 per cent in March, taking the housing market is recovering year-on-year increase to 7.6 per cent. This followed a subdued February, when prices rose by just 0.1 per cent.

Halifax said its March index, published next week, is likely to show a slight increase. Its price figures have been well below

cent drop in February.

David Parry, Nationwide's head of planning, said: "Although spring usually produces an upturn in the housing market. there are tentative signs the recent series of interest-rate cuts have helped boost confidence."

The Easter weekend is a crucial time for the housing market, traditionally bringing a big upturn in sales.

Other indicators have point-

on mortgage approvals have

both indicated the start of a conditions are favourable; mortmore than 30 years, and properties are affordable by past

However, this month's Budget dealt a blow by abolishing mortgage tax relief from April 2000. It also raised stamp duty on moderate, few are as optimistic

years, and showed a 0.5 per ed to a revival in the market Sur- properties priced at above veys of estate agents and figures 2250,000, which will dampen the top end of the market.

But the biggest question recovery. In addition, underlying mark over the outlook for house prices remains the length and gage rates are at their lowest for severity of the economic downturn. "We have had the interestrate cuts, but nobody has felt the pinch of rising unemployment yet," said Mr Loynes.

Although most forecasters reckon the slowdown will be

as the Treasury, which is predicting I per cent growth this year. Unemployment rose slight ly last month, according to the latest official figures.

Even so, the Bank of England is expected to cut rates further. The Monetary Policy Committee could act as soon as next week. according to some analysts.

The average UK house price stands at £68,308 on Nationwide's figures, up from £63,493

BMW sets four-week deadline for Rover aid

BY MICHAEL HARRISON **Business Editor**

BMW YESTERDAY gave the Government a four-week deadline to come up with an acceptable aid package for Rover's Longbridge car plant in Birmingham or risk seeing a £1.7bn investment in a new family model go overseas.

The German car maker is seeking a subsidy of up to £200m to support the manufacture of a new range of mediumsized cars to replace the Rover 200 and 400 series. The alternative is to build the new cars in Hungary - a move that would spell the end of Longbridge, threatening up to 50,000 motor industry jobs in the West Mid-

A fortnight ago the Department of Trade and Industry shocked BMW by offering an aid package worth only £118m. Discussions have continued, and a spokesman for the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Stephen Byers, repeated yesterday that he was confident of agreeing a deal. But speaking in Munich, the

new BMW chairman, Professor Joachim Milberg, said: "The longer the negotiations drag on. the greater will become the likelihood of a production site outside Great Britain."

Prof Milberg hinted that a could be higher than that made by Britain. "Hungary would have advantages in comparison to Longbridge, but there are a number of factors playing a role which have to be taken into

was an element of brinkman-



Joachim Milberg yesterday: Hinted that Hungary's aid offer could top the UK's

had never yet been an application for regional assistance that will be achieved. where the company involved than it needed.

"This is not just a case of us bunging a blank cheque in the new family of cars, codenamed direction of BMW and letting them do what they want with it," The aid package, if one can

DTI sources suggested there be agreed, will come with a list of conditions relating to BMW's

ship in the BMW chairman's overall investment in Longcomments, noting that there bridge and the level of productivity and skills improvements

BMW is already cutting 2,500 Longbridge is selected for the the R30 series. However, Prof would be necessary given the age of the Rover workforce and the high take-up of previous

The local MP for the Longbridge area said Prof Milberg's further redundancies even if Burden, the Labour member for Birmingham Northfield, added: "The important thing is that the discussions between the Gov-Milberg said he was sure that ernment and the company no compulsory redundancies should come to a successful Meanwhile, BMW produced

fresh evidence of the continuing

Michael Kappeler/Reuters

free fall in Rover's share of the car market following its £650m loss last year. In the first three warnings about the dangers of months of this year, sales fell by the talks dragging on had to be 38 per cent. Rover sales fell 3 the market overall has been boosted by about 50 per cent because of the introduction of the new registration letter

Sales in Europe, excluding the UK, were down by 40 per cent on a year ago. In Italy, an important market for Rover. the fall was 53 per cent.

grow at 2.3 per cent, as opposed

to the 2.1 per cent it predicted

UK in Commission recommen-

dations on member states' eco-

nomic policy guidelines, which

singled out the UK employment

rate as one of the best in Europe.

But the document added:

Growth of small business, in-

novation and research and de-

velopment expenditure are all

blamed on the country's greater-

than-average exposure to world

trade and some domestic influ-

ences, including the depressed

Although the new figures put

construction industry.

Germany's slowdown is

relatively weak."

There was also praise for the

Thorne to leave Sainsbury in board shake-up

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

SAINSBURY'S IS parting cornpany with its finance director. Rosemary Thorne, as part of a boardroom shake-up that will cut the number of directors at the underperforming supermarket group from 14 to 12.

David Clapham, head of special business units, is also leaving. He has been with the company for 35 years, but Sainsbury's announcement misspelled his name.

Ms Thorne, 47, at Sainsbury's for seven years, is one of few female executive directors of a FTSE 100 company. She is leaving by mutual consent "to pursue other opportunities". but will be eligible for substantial compensation. Ms Thorne was on a two-year contract and earned a total of £426,000 last year. It is thought her pay-off will be less than £400,000.

Sainsbury's said her departure was due to the separation of finance functions between the group and the Sainsbury's supermarkets board.

Her departure is not a surprise as the City has known for some time that Sainsbury's has been keen to appoint a more 🛚 powerful finance director. Several candidates are thought to have been offered the job last



for substantial pay-off

"I think they needed a stronger personality in that job, though it is not fair to blame Sainsbury's problems on her. one analyst said.

Mike Dennis at SG Securities added: "You have to ask whether this really changes anything in the business. The key people behind their strategy - which has not exactly covered itself in glory - are still

Sainsbury's is now looking for replacement but would not say if an internal appointment was possible. The company is backing its marketing director, Kevin McCarten, who has been criticised after the unsuccessful Value to Shout About" advertising campaign starring John Cleese. In the new board he has been given extra responsibility for brand development The shares fell by 0.25p yes

terday to 380.75p.

Enterprise and Lasmo European Commission abandon merger talks

yesterday abandoned merger talks vowing that each had better prospects remaining as independent oil exploration

In a statement issued after the markets had closed, the two companies said: "Having considered the possible merits of a merger and the contributions that each company would have made to the combination, both companies have concluded that they are better placed to add value independently."

Lasmo fought off a hostile

£1.6bn bid from Enterprise five years ago. A merger would have created one of the biggest independent oil exploration groups in the sector with a market capitalisation of just under £2bn.

But after three months of negotiations, it was decided not to go ahead with a merger because, as one source put it, "the risks outweighed the benefits". did not stack up."

ENTERPRISE OIL and Lasmo By Michael Harrison

There would have been cost savings of about £20m but this was not sufficient to justify the risks involved in putting two different production and exploration portfolios and management styles together. There were also concerns about the disposal programme that would have been necessary and whether the assets would have fetched an acceptable price.

Although Enterprise initiated

the talks and was always the keener of the two on a merger, Pierre Jungels, its chief executive, would not have had a role in the enlarged group. Joe Darby, the chief executive of Lasmo, would have taken on that post while its chairman would have been the Enterprise chairman. Sir Graham Hearne.

Mr Jungels said: "When we looked at the overall package it

EUROPE AGAIN cut its growth By Stephen Castle forecast yesterday, blaming the international economic turmoil and raising the pressure on the

European Central Bank to reduce interest rates. The latest round of gloomy statistics reflect lower economic expectations from the biggest EU nations, including Germany where the slowdown in 1999 is expected, according to a separate EU document, to be "more

pronounced than in most other member states". The European Commission expects euro zone gross domestic product to rise by just 2.2 per cent in 1999 and 2.7 per cent in 2000, compared with forecasts last autumn of 2.6 and 2.9 per cent respectively.

Growth in all 15 EU countries was also marked down at 2.1 per cent for 1999 as opposed to 2.4 per cent predicted earlier. The

in Brussels

cuts growth forecast

UK economy is also expected to perform worse than predicted this year, growth for 1999 is expected to be 1.1 per cent, rather than the 13 per cent forecast last October: But for 2000, Brussels expects the UK economy to

1999. % change						
	Previous	Revised				
Belgium	2.5	·· 1.9				
Germany	2.2	1.7				
France	2.6	2.3				
ireland	8.2	9.3				
italy	2.1	1.6				
Sweden	2.8	2.2				
UK .	1.3	1.1				
EU-15	2.4	2.1				
EUR-11	2.6	2.2 "				
Source	:: European	Commission				

further pressure on the euro, the

Monetary Affairs Commission-er, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, insisted that its current level was "not a source of concern".

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

IN ANOTHER day of heavy trading, blue chips edged ahead, ignoring a poor opening in New York. The prospect of more corporate activity and even lower interest rates helped Footsie to an 11.2-point gain to 6,264.1; supporting indices also

moved ahead. Hopes of more bid action on the drugs front lifted SmithKline Beecham 36.5p to 892p and Zeneca, as its merger with Sweden's Astra was being sealed, jumped 110p to 2,945p, a peak.

Derek Pain, page 17

NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES retreated from Monday's record close, losing almost 1 per cent after Coca-Cola, the world's largest soft drinks company, unexpectedly warned of lower sales.

Coke, which issued its sales warning just minutes after the US market closed for trade on Monday, was one of the day's biggest fallers. By the early afternoon, its shares were down \$25/g at \$623/16 helping to drag the Dow average down by 83.25 points to 9,923.53.

TOKYO

RECORD JOBLESS numbers and the slump in spending figures hit hopes of an early recovery in the Japanese economy, Unemployment in Japan has topped 3 million for the first time, according to official figures, and household spending tumbled 5.7 per cent in January to

a 13-year low. The weak economic data took their toll on the Nikkei 225 index which shrugged off Monday's record performance on Wall Street to close down by 149.72 points at

HONG KONG

STRONG futures-related buying and the Dow's record close pushed Hong Kong stocks over ² per cent higher yesterday. The Hang Seng closed up 251.74 points at 10,940.21, just

off its day's highs. The expiry of March Hang Seng futures contributed to heavy trading volume on the exchange. "The strength of the April futures, following settlement of the March futures, indicates there's still a bit of buying interest around," said one analyst.

FRANKFURT

CONCERN ABOUT the action in Kosovo hit stocks in Frankfurt. which gave up early gains to close lower yesterday.

The electronically-traded Xetra DAX finished down 26.01 points, or 0.53 per cent, at 4,841.20. The floor DAX ended down 0.41 per cent at

BMW led the decliners, dropping almost 3 per cent after it said it hoped to match last year's earnings in 1999 and that deliveries had fallen by 15,000 units in the first three months of the year.

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PORSHAW DELOPMENTS UMITED

Settle Bill, it's Microsoft's best option

TT MUST gall Bill Gates to watch the trust busters ganging up on a business that has got where it is by virtue of sheer brain power and commercial acumen and not through brute force and ruthless Aquisitions. But he, along with everyone else concerned, must realise that the best way out of the Microsoft antitrust suit is a deal.

The company saw its stock rocket when the first rumours of a possible settlement emerged; the government knows that despite its strong courtroom performance, its case is far from legally waterof the industry have a stake in a stable future for the software market.

So the talks that started yesterday in Washington on a settlement must have a fair wind behind them. Microsoft has put up its own framework for a deal that would loosen its contracts with personal computer makers, though it has been received sniffily by the gov-

The nuclear option is, of course, oreak-up, Standard Oil or AT&T style. Under this scenario the company would be split into a number of "Baby Bills", each of which re-



OUTLOOK

from the original behemoth. Antight; and consumers and the rest other remedy, suggested by the state attorneys-general, would be to auction off the rights to Windows, preventing Microsoft from using it leverage in other markets.

All three aim to tackle the central problem - the operating system. It is Microsoft's use of its virtual monopoly in Windows that has, the government alleges, enabled it to muscle in on the internet browser market. Each tries to dilute that power; Microsoft's is a form of arms control, while the other two approaches are more like the division the end of the Second World War.

moves very quickly. Even while the trial was underway, AOEs linkup with Netscape changed the competitive landscape. Microsoft is arguing from this that it is in a competitive market, and that it is not guilty as charged. But if it does not start giving ground, then the case could drag on for months, years even. At a time when Microsoft faces some very tricky strategic issues, that cannot be in Bill Gates' interest.

Sainsbury's

DID SHE jump or was she pushed? And does it really matter? The departure of Rosemary Thorne as finance director of Sainsbury's has been on the cards for a while now and analysts say the poor woman's job was being offered around at least year ago. So in that sense her demise is hardly a surprise.

She may not have been one of life's more charismatic personalities. And her wooden, stilted presentations, where she stuck doggedly to a rehearsed script, were awkward to say the least.

fewer female executive directors. leaving just a handful such as Marjorie Scardino at Pearson and Kathleen O'Donovan at BTR-

Secondly it begs the question why Sainsbury's persisted with such an odd board structure for so

When Ms Thorne was appointed to the Sainsbury's board seven years ago she reported to David Sainsbury who had just spent 17 years as finance director himself. She was always in his shadow as a result, performing the role of financial controller rather than the kind of powerful, lateral thinker that a company of Sainsbury's size ought to have.

Yet even when Dino Adriano took on the chief executive's job the post of finance director remained a downgraded function. Ms Thorne reported not direct to the chief executive but to David Bremner, the deputy chief executive. It was almost as if the company needed to have someone looking over her shoulder.

This set-up was odd to say the least. Nor did it help that Ms

time, in the world of software, some important points. First, it Thorne happened to preside over downgrading their growth foremeans the FTSE 100 has one Sainsbury's finances at a difficult

> But there is a wider point. It is an important function of a board, particularly of a major company, that it grooms its top managers for the top and ensures an orderly succession. In better managed companies, the finance director ought to be at least a contender for the top job just as David Reid was at Tesco. Rosemary Thorne, for all

her qualities, was never that. Sainsbury's has been criticised in the recent past for being a cosy family company that required an injection of new blood from outside. Yesterday's mini-shake-up iihistrates that it is also struggling to develop talent from within.

Euroland

IT IS just one thing after another for the euro. An almighty row from day one between the German finance minister and the European Central Bank. The outbreak of war on the Continent. And the conomy starts to misbehave too - the European Commission yesterday joined the list of those

casts for Euroland.

But these may be as nothing compared to the political difficulties presented by gathering 11 different welfare states under a single currency. A series of research papers presented at the annual conference of the Royal Economic Society yesterday underlined the potential for trouble. The first hot potato is the is the pressure for fiscal transfers, of which social spending forms a large part, between countries in the single currency area.

The conventional wisdom is that social security will remain very much in the hands of individual member states. Even more than taxation, it is seen as a national matter. But this is likely to prove unsustainable. Just as the US Federal Government transfers money between states, transfers within Europe will eventually form one of the mechanisms for making the single currency work well for a collection of differing economies. These transfers are likely to become a Brussels matter. Not only does social security spending forming 28 per cent of

mand management tool, rising in bad times and falling in good times. A country doing well can help out one doing badly if welfare spending can be financed across borders

The second issue is the increased transparency created by the single currency. This will apply not just to consumer prices but also to living standards. People will easily be able to compare their level of benefits or, cruciaily, pensions. There is likely to be pressure to level up. It could be disastrous given the looming pensions burden in many Continental countries where pensions are both generous and largely un-

The debate is one that policymakers chose to ignore in the run up to the launch of the single currency. Neither the likelihood of bigger budget transfers nor the need for pension reform was likely to win European hearts and

With the euro's current troubles the discussion is hardly likely to start now. But it will in the end force itself to the attention of even the biggest ostriches in

Silverstone unveils plan to fight off bids

THE BRITISH Racing Drivers Club (BRDC) unveiled ambitious plans yesterday to unlock the value of its verstone grand prix racetrack and keep the site, worth up to £50m, out of the hands of hostile bidders.

Silverstone holds the licence from Bernie Ecclestone - an honorary member of the BRDC - to run the British Grand Prix until 2001, when the contract is due to be renegotiated. The club plans to build a £15m luxury hotel overlooking the racetrack and a 400,000 square foot hitech business park next door.

Lord Hesketh, BRDC president, said the plans, formulated with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, were designed to "protect the club, protect Silverstone and enfranchise the members".

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Under the restructuring the core assets of the BRDC, chiefly the Silverstone racetrack, will be ring-fenced and a board of guardians appointed to oversee them.

The club will retain the track's freehold and rent it to a new company, Silverstone Circuits Group (SCG), which will commercialise the club's operations.

At least three parties have expressed an interest in taking over Silverstone: Tom Walkinshaw, owner of TWR; Nicola Foulston, owner of rival track Brands Hatch; and John Lewis, a former BRDC director. The BRDC was founded after the

such as Stirling Moss and Jack late James Hunt in the 1970s.

Brabham, and to promote British racing. Its emergence as a potentially lucrative bid target has taken many of its 834 members by surprise.

The club's members, comprising 526 current and former racing drivers and 308 associated and honorary members, will be able to buy shares in SCG. Lord Hesketh said the company may float in around five years' time, giving members such as Jackie Stewart, Damon Hill and Martin Brundle a possible payout.

"We will make a presentation to members at the annual meeting on 23 April and then there will be an extraordinary meeting for them to vote on the proposals," said Lord Hesketh, who himself built Grand Second World War for racing drivers Prix cars and ran the team for the



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PC. Familiv + pack, printer.

VIB OUT OWN STOTES.

Corporate Services board faces axe

THREE OF the City's largest fund BY PETER THAL LARSEN managers yesterday joined forces to eject most of the board of Corporate Services after the employment and training services company issued its second profit warning this month.

Mercury Asset Management, M&G and Schroders, which together control 31.59 per cent of Corporate general meeting to remove the company's chairman, commercial direcafter losing confidence in them.

The drastic move followed just hours after Corporate Services warned that its operating profits for the year to December would be around £20m. Just three weeks ago, the company said profits would be about £33.5m – already well below market expectations.

Corporate Services shares lost al-

The UK's **Biggest** PC Retailer

EASTER

most 10 per cent of their value on the news, closing at 70p. They touched a high of 261p last year. The shareholders are understood

to have pressed for management changes after the first profit warning, but were unhappy at the pace of Services, have called an extraordinary change. Roger Eden, the chief executive, resigned last Thursday but the chairman. Jeffrey Fowler, is believed to have refused to go.

The shareholders were also concerned about the lack of information put out by the company and its advisers, Investec Henderson Crosthwaite, after the profit warning.

Michael Davies, the non-executive chairman of National Express, the trains and buses group, has been lined up to take over as a director of the

Our promise

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CLASSIFIED

THE SCULPTURE COMPANY LIMITED The Issolvency Act 1986 NOTICE IS HEREBY: GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Sherlock House, 7 Kennck Place, London W1H 3FF on 1st April 1999 at 2.15 pm for

Rennick Place, Loution WIH 347-on 1st April 1999 at 2.15 pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. Resolutions proposed at the Meeting of Creditions may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator or Liquidators' are to be remainerated. The Meeting may also receive information about, or he asked to approve, the cost of preparing the state-ment of affairs and conversing the Meeting of Creditions. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their pmy, logether with a full statement of account at the registered office-Sherlock House. 7 Kerrick Place, London WIH 347-For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required tasks the surrenters his security to lodge a Sherlock House. 7 Kenrick Place, London WIH 347-before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at the which it is assessed.

assessed.

Notice is further given that a feet of the names and achieves of the Company's creditars may be impected, free of charge, at Sheelock House, 7 Kennack Place. London Will 3FF between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business slays preceding the date of the meeting stated above.

above.
Dated this 25th of March 1999
By Order of the Board
P DAYIDSON DAVIS, Director

FORSHAW LIMITED (Registered in England No. 901102) TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

(1) The above-named company has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own thans to continue. States by purcount:

12) The amount of the permissable capital payment for the shares in question is £35,791,14 and the resolution approving such payment out of capital was passed on 29 March 1999.

March 1999.

(3) The statistics declaration of the director and the auditor's report required by section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the company's registered office at York Chambers, Croft Road, Crowborough, East Sussee, Not 10L. (4) Any creditor of the company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following 29 March 1999 apply to the court under section 176 of the said Act for an order prohibing the payment. Dated 31 March 1999 L W BRAY Company Secretary

Unusual Gifts

(B



The Implement Act 1986
ORBIT TRADE ELEMENTIONS &
CONFERENCES (UR) LIMITED
Trading Name: ORBITEC

NOTICE IS MIREBY CREATER

IN SECTION 98 of the Instalmency Act
1986 that a MERTING of the CREEN1986 that a MERTING of the CREATER
1987 at 4 Charterhoure Square, Limiton ECIM
68N at 12:00 noon for the jurposes
mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the

SANTACE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT

Maurice Reysond Domington, HPA, of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhorer Square, London, ECIM 62N is appointed to act as the qual-fied brookway Pacificoner pursuant to Section 98128al of the said Act who will furnish credition, free of charm.

with will almost creation, use of charge, with such advantation con-cerning the Company's affact as they may reasonably request. Dated this 23st day of March 1999 By Order of the Board SYETLANA MENER, Director

Chat Lines

No. 001148 OF 1999 CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF BIWATER INDUSTRIES LIMITED IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

Bendix Parts Limited
Retirement Benefits Scheme
THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN
PURSUANT TO SECTION 27
OF THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925
Re: the trusts of the Bendix
Parts Limited Retirement
Benefits Scheme ("the
Scheme") established by a
Deed dated 17th January,
1974 made between DBA (LIK)
Limited and the then Trustees
of the Scheme.
NOTICE IS MEREBY GIVEN
that any person having a claim
against or interest in the
Scheme which is subject to the
Trusts of the show-mentioned
instrument whereor Linda
Maurer, c/o AffledSignal
Affermanter Europe By, 47-53
rus Raspaill, Levaliois-Perret
Cedex, 92594. France and
Keith Drew, c/o FRAM Europe
Limited, Liantisant, Pontyclun,
Mid Glarnorgan CF72 BYU are
the present Trustees is hereby
required to send particulars in
wrang of his claim or interest to
the undersigned on or before
31st May, 1999 after which date
the Trustees will proceed to
dashbute the assets of the Trust
amongst the persons entitled
then have had notice and the
said Trustees will not as
respects the assets of the brust
or any part thereof so
distributed be lighte to any
person whose claim or interest
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notice.
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Secultary to the Trustees. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice

of March 1999. Herbert Smith Exchange House R. Latham, Secretary to the Trustees, Bendix Parts Limited Retirement Benefits Scheme, Primrose Street

Companies on the 15th day Dated this 31st day of

Legal Notices

No. 1637 of 1999 JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF

EMERGING COMPANIES

nacery Division) dated the 17th day of March 1999 confirming the reduction of the issued share capital of the above-named Company from £7,500,000 to £4,036,199 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital as altered the several articulars required by the above-mentioned Act were

London EC2A 2HS Solicitors for the Company

INVESTMENT TRUST PLC and IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated

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Dated 29th March, 1999. Simmons & Simmons nodop FC?M ?TX Tel: 0171-628 2020 5/W59042/RES/CZH/ACR

Solicitors for the above-

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NOTICE IS HEISEN CAYEN in accordance with field A 100 first two. Tracty Elizabeth Callaghan and Pater John Robertson Souther of Baier Tilly, 2 Bloomshowy Steet, London WCIB 35T were appointed joint blookshows of the company on 23 March 1999 by Messhers and Greditors.

NOTICE S. ASSO HEISEN CAYEN that the creditors of the above assued conspany which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 27 April 1999 to seed on their norms and addresses, with posticulary of Baiet Carlot of Carlot to the December of the Carlot of the Carlo 24th March, 1999, confirming reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company £18,926,324 £8,926,324 (being a reduction of £10,000,000) lated 23 March 1999 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 26th March, 1999. THE DISOLVENCY BUTES 1966 WILLIAM LOFTUS LIMITED

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Stephen Frankin of Prans Blades Frankin 1
Co. 6 Boorstowy Separe, Lundess WCI/
2.P was appointed Liquidator of the above
named Company on 24 March 1999 by
Members and Conflows

Liquid 18 March 1999. based 24 March 1999

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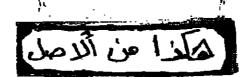
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broadcaster, seems to have embarked on a policy of talking down its shares. They fell 61p to 1,220p following what was described as "cautious" investment meetings that prompted some analysts to reduce profit estimates.

The former East Midlands Allied Press had the dubious distinction of heading the list of Footsie fallers; only last week the shares joined the blue-chip index, reflecting their recent strong performance and expansion moves.

The market seemed to get the impression that Emap was playing down expectations for its recent US acquisition and was pointing to the tough competition it faced in the domestic magazine market. Analysis fretted about the launch of Heat, Emap's new listings title. Circulation appeared to be well below expectations and the publication could be a drag on next year's performance.

MEARS, the maintenance services group, is expected to produce profits of £1.2m this year after lifting last year's figure by 26 per cent to £821,000. Group turnover rose by 25 per cent to

Eaglet Investment Trust, the small company specialist run by Peter Webb, has moved into Mears, picking up a 12 per cent interest in the group,

taking the total institutional shareholder representation to around 50 per cent of the capital.

BT Alex.Brown, the company's stockbroker, was among those to lower profit estimates. Warburg Dillon Read reduced its target price to 1,200p from 1.300o. Morgan Stanley cut its profits forecast to £160m for the year ending today, with a £199m estimate for the following year. It lifted its target price to 1,400p. Last year the group produced profits of

Mirror, the newspaper publisher in the takeover arena, howed Emap (and others) how to strengthen their shares get an Internet connection. The price rose 6p to 211p after it revealed it had formed an interactive services division offering free Internet access.

Footsie, for once, ignored a eak New York display, closing vith a modest 11.2-point gain to 6,264.1. Supporting indices were firm. Once again trading was busy with the usual end-March considerations, plus the late rush into PEPs, encouraging another day of high

Hopes of lower interest rates continued to circulate and



the market confidently looked forward to another round of corporate activity with the BP Amoco deal with Atlantic Richfield expected to be announce today as well as Imperial Chemical Industries' £2bn selloff. But slim hopes that Enterprise Oil will finally tie the knot with Lasmo were dashed after the market closed when their merger talks, to nobody's

surprise, were called off. BP firmed 2p to 1,079p; ICI shaded to 560p; Enterprise rose 14.5p to 367.5p and Lasmo slipped 1.75p to 133,75p.

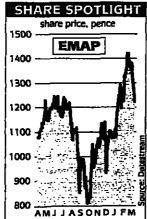
SmithKline Beecham, reflecting hopes of drugs bid fever, rose 36.5p to 892p; Zeneca, as its mega-merger with Sweden's Astra was about to be sealed, hit a 2,945p peak,

up 110p. Pilkington, the glass group, remained high on the speculative list, gaining 4p (after 8.5p) on talk of an overseas strike.

Centrica, the gas group, fell 4.25p to 109p as Deutsche Morgan Grenfell placed 41 million shares sold by two institutions. Storehouse, the BhS retail

chain, continued to attract support as whispers of a US strike again went the rounds. The shares rose 8.5p to 145p in brisk trading. But Safeway's flirtation with the speculators ended, at least for the time being, with the shares off 9.75p at 244p.

Boots was another to feel an analytical kick. The price fell 28.5p to 892p after Merrill Lynch turned cautious, citing a slowdown in margin growth. Bid action - fact and fiction -was again evident on the un-



shade lower at 297.5p, agreed a 85p-a-share offer for Capital Corporation, the casino operator, little changed at 81p. Adscene, the publisher, rose 38.5p to 199p after reporting a bid approach.

Even pubs chain Inn Business, jilted by Enterprise Inns in favour of Century Inns, managed a 3p gain to 69.5p. Waterfall, the snooker group, made another attempt to pot European Leisure, saying it had made a 100p share exchange offer; European, seeking to merge with Allied Leisure, rejected the "indica-tive" bid. Waterfall was the

only one of the trio to move, los-

dercard. Stanley Leisure, a

ing 1.5p to 58p.

Brent International, the chemical group, fell 4.5p to 95.50 as some investors grew tired of waiting for the long running takeover talks to produce a result. There is also a growing suspicion that the negotiations have hit problems and

MACRO 4, the software group where new management is in charge should lift profits in the year to June by around £2m to £26.25m, believes stockbroker Greig Middleton. Its analysts, Judy Stewart and Dominic

Wilson, are going for £29m

next year. The company's shares are tightly held, but the analysts believe the group could be tempted to go along the takeover trail and increase its capital by offering shares for acquisitions.

may soon be called off. Utilitec, an engineering ser-

vices group, added 4.5p to 24.5p as a management buyout was mooted. Devro, a sausage skin maker, sizzled 19p to 142p on talk of an mbo.

Taylor Nelson Sofres, the information and marketing group, was busily traded on vague talk of corporation action, gaining 1.25p to 138p. Metal Bulletin, which has enjoyed speculative flurdes in the past, firmed 75p to 1,625p.

six outlets in the City, talked of tough trading and its shares fell 16.5p to 137.5p. Halma, the engineer, lost 2.5p to 96.5p after HSBC made cautious noises. The expected profits gloom at Corporate Services lowered the shares 6.5p to 71p.

AEA Technologies continued to suffer from its warning that profits will be flat, falling a further 33.5p to 348.5p. The shares have been as high as 1,030p in the past 12 months.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.09 billion SEAQ TRADES: n/a GILTS INDEX: 113.36 -0.05

COMPANY RESULTS

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INVESTMENT

Cautious Emap Rugby's £250m sell-off feels the heat nermits Scancem bids permits Scancem bids

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

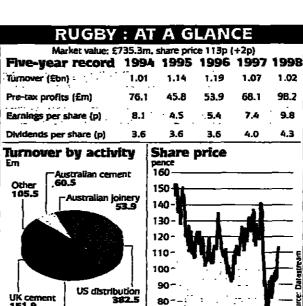
RUGBY, Britain's third-biggest cement producer, is to use the proceeds of a £250m disposal programme to bid for assets in Scancern, the Nordic building materials giant.

The UK group yesterday pleased the City with radical plans to sell all its joinery and materials businesses to focus on cement and lime operations. Rugby said it was in ad-

vanced talks with Jeld-Wen, a private US company, over the sale of its US, UK and Australian joinery companies, which make doors and windowframes, and its US distribution subsidiary. The disposals are likely to net Rugby over £250m. They will involve the loss of £700m of sales, 70 per cent of group turnover.

The chief executive, Peter Johnson, said the sales would help Rugby make inroads into the global cement market. "The cement industry is like a jungle and you cannot go into the jungle with one eye on the joinery business," he said.

Funds raised will enable



tion for Scancern, owner of Castle Cement, the second-ranked UK cement maker. The Scandinavian company is being sold by its joint owners, Skanska of Sweden and Aker of Norway.

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Analysts believe Rugby will

rials groups, including CRH of Ireland, France's Lafarge and British group RMC.

not be able to buy the whole Rugby to participate in the auc- The sale has attracted interest group, but could bid for its east are a good speculative buy.

owns firms in Finland, the Baltic States and Poland, which fit

with Rugby's Polish business. The UK company could also buy parts of Castle Cement. although buying the entire group would be blocked on competition grounds.

News of the sales and potential purchases overshadowed Rugby's 1998 results. The group posted a small increase in operating profit to £76.9m on sales down 4 per cent to £1.02bn.

Analysts said the restructuring raised the chance of a bid for Rugby. "[After the disposals] they are a very tidied-up company. If there is a predator, Rugby is doing all the dirty work for them," said David Tay-lor of Teather & Greenwood.

After the sale of Castle Cement, Rugby will be the only large UK cement producer available to buy. It could attract European giants such as La-farge and CRH, believe analysis. Profit forecasts for 1999 and the p/e ratio are now academic, but given the bid prospects Rugby's shares, up 2p to 113p yesterday,

Selfridges to review Highland in £800m Oxford Street site link-up with Remy

SELFRIDGES, the department BY NIGEL COPE store group, is to undertake a review of its flagship Oxford Street site in London as a £100m seven-year refurbishment programme nears completion.

In addition to the upgraded 90-year-old store, the site includes Selfridges Hotel, a car park and several floors of office and warehouse space that may be better used as retail selling space. An update is expected at the time of the company's interim results in September.

The announcement came as Selfridges announced betterthan expected full-year results following its demerger from Sears last summer

Trading profits were 14 per cent ahead at £24,2m, excluding £7.6m of exceptional charges arising from the demerger. port, as does the Oxford Street group already owns 9.4 per cent There was further good news on freehold valuation of 212p per of highland, which in turn concurrent trading; sales at the share A weak hold, say analysts. trols 2 per cent of Remy.

Associate City Editor

Oxford Street shop are ahead by 7 per cent on a like-for-like basis. Sales at the new store at Trafford Park in Manchester are ahead of expectations, with a profit contribution of £400,000 in the first 20 weeks' trading.

But analysts said that if Selfridges bad to pay rent on the Oxford Street store, where it owns the freehold, the group would barely be breaking even. The shares - up by 8p to a

new high of 250p yesterday – are trading on a forward multiple of 19 times current-year earnings forecasts, a level that is starting to look quite high. On the plus side, the 3.6 per cent stake held by British Land offers bid sup-

scotch maker, yesterday moved to boost its presence in the global drinks market with a £800m distribution agreement with the French group Remy Cointreau and Jim Beam of the US.

The joint venture will operate in all major markets outside the US to promote and distribute premium brands, including Remy Martin cognac, Famous Grouse and Macallan whiskies, Jim Beam bourbon and Piper Heidsieck champagne. Highland said the deal would

"significantly" cut distribution costs and boost sales. But it is set to lead to some job losses in the three groups' 150-strong UK distribution workforce. It also deepens ties between Highland and Remy; the French

HIGHLAND DISTILLERS, the By Francesco Guerrera

which will have turnover of £800m, the three partners will each inject assets and cash worth £75m. Highland will put in its distribution network and sales force, valued at £45m, and £30m cash. The funds will come from the repayment of a £90m bond from Remy Cointreau. News of the venture offset

Highland's disappointing interims, sending the shares 0.5p higher to 232p. Pre-tax profits slipped 6 per cent to £23.5m as demand for cheaper whiskies was hit by the Asian downturn. Analysts downgraded fullyear forecasts from £45m to £42m, leaving the shares on a forward multiple of about 10. With the new deal they are | Elementis shares were worth holding despite the un- unchanged on Monday at 93p. certain market conditions.

IN BRIEF

Zergo to get dual listing on Nasdaq

ZERGO, the Internet security software group, is preparing to deliver a snub to the Stock Exchange by obtaining a dual listing on Nasdaq, the US exchange, in the next year. The company said it was selecting a bank to advise it on the listing, which is likely to be combined with a fundraising. The Stock Exchange's new information technology sector is due to go live this week.

BT go-ahead

THE EUROPEAN Commission vesterday cleared the alliance petween British Telecom and AT&T, opening the way for the \$10bn (£6.2bn) joint venture to start trading later this summer. The deal was cleared after AT&T agreed to sell its UK division, ACC, and agreed to a "greater structural separation" from Telewest the cable operator of which it owns 22 per cent.

Terranova says no

TERRANOVA FOODS repeated its rejection of Unigate's £228.5m hostile bid yesterday but conceded that price is the key issue rather than strategic logic. Unveiling its defence document. Terranova said the 125p cash offer undervalued the company and failed to recognise the importance of its position in growing chilled foods markets and the strategic value of its continental European operations.

Scotia upbeat

SCOTIA EXPECTS to move into profit in three years, the drug development company said yesterday as it unveiled a £23.6m loss for 1998, down from a £26.6m loss in 1997. The company expects Foscan, its photosensitising drug, which is miected at the site of tumours and then exposed directly to a laser that destroys cancerous cells, to come to the US market next year.

Elementis

IN YESTERDAY'S newspaper a brief item mistakenly appeared under the heading "Elementis shock", which said that the company had issued a profit warning and that the shares bad lost 27 per cent in value. In fact, this was a version of a story which appeared in November 1998.

Philip Green sets off alarm

SEVERAL SELFRIDGES people were recalling yesterday how they first encountered Philip Green, the man who bought the Sears stores chain

a couple of months ago. ridges demerged a year ago, but they continue to share offices on the top floor of the Ox-

ford Street department store. When Sears succumbed to Mr Green's hostile bid the Selfridges staff realised they faced the risk of bumping into the corporate raider in the

In fact, this didn't happen. The only evidence of Mr Green's presence was the fire alarm, which kept going off when he entered the building. Apparently Mr Green's cigars were the problem.

But that seems to have stopped. As one Selfridges insider said yesterday: "Maybe

> Repo(Ave) 2.90% Discount

> > 1.00% 3.25%

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS



Of course, Sears and Self- Barclays' yanks

AND SO another American flies in to help rebuild the fortunes of Barclays Bank.

formation services.

spent 28 years with Chase Man-

Mr Hunter, who previously

Robert Hunter, a native of New Jersey, is joining Barclays as managing director of its wealth management business, after three years at the helm of Standard & Poor's financial in-

hattan, will be joining in May. He is well known to Barclays's new chief executive, fellow American Mike O'Neill, who himself arrives to assume command of the banking group

banking arm, Barclays Capital, the post-Martin Taylor Barclays is turning into something

of an American club. I wonder what the bank's Quaker founders from the Eng-

lish Midlands - the Cobbolds, Gurneys, Goslings and Buxtons - would have made of it all. Mr Hunter succeeds Steve Furness, who is leaving Barclays after 27 years with the

Still only 49, Mr Furness is looking for a larger job, possibly in financial services.

DTI panel

EIGHT NEW members have been appointed to the panel

mergers that are referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

When a merger is referred to the MMC, up to three members of the panel may be seconded to the MMC to help decide on that particular deal.

The new panel members include Eve Pollard, former editor of the Sunday Mirror, Professor Donald Trelford, ex-editor of The Observer, and Charles Wilson, former managing director of Mirror Group and a former editor of The Independent. Kim Howells, the Parlia-

mentary Under Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs, has also appointed five others: Sarwar Ahmed, who founded Eastern Eye in 1989; Linda Christmas, director of the post-graduate course in newspaper journalism at City University, London; William Gibson, former managing director of Financial Times Business Information; Gerry Holbrook, former

for dealing with newspaper Joyce Hopkirk, the former

On the move

DR DAVID L'PRICHARD, who stepped down as chairman of earch and development at SmithKline Beecham recently after only 18 months in the job, has popped up as a non-executive director of Ribo Targets, a Cambridge-based biotechnology company. Dr U'Prichard, 50, was in-

ternational research director at Zeneca Pharmaceuticals between 1994 and 1997, when he moved to SmithKline Beecham.

RiboTargets was formed in July 1997 to commercialise revolutionary developments in the understanding of RNA, the link between the genetic information contained in DNA and protein synthesis. The company is involved in

combat HIV and Hepatitis C.

developing a range of drugs to

on Monday week. What with Bob Diamond that is maintained by the Derunning the bank's investment partment of Trade and Industry shire Post Newspapers, and Mr Green is a bit more relaxed E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

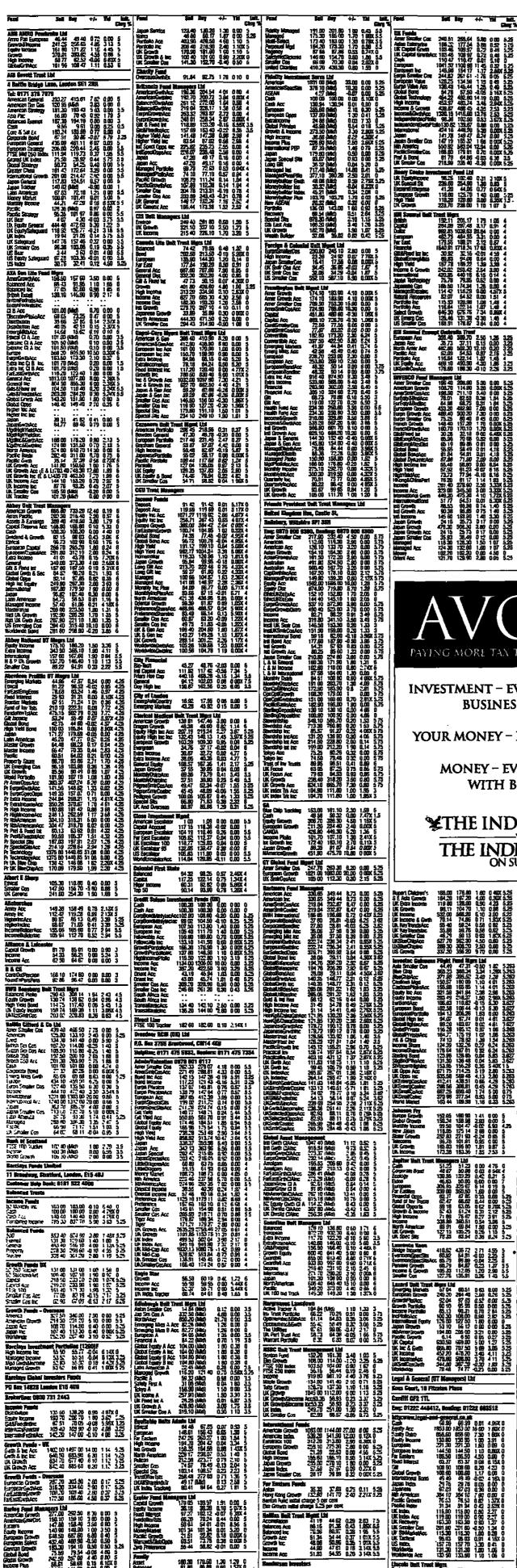
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SPORT

'My job is not to look after me but the nippers who want to do what I did in 1954-55, and go to every home match'

Banks busy playing great games



THE BRIAN VINER Interview

ACCORDING TO The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks (Robson Books, £7.99), the left-wing MP's response when Tony Blair phoned to ask if he fancied becoming Minister for Sport was: "Is the Pope Catholic?" I can now exclusively reveal that this is untrue. For, in a rather grand committee room at the House of Commons, Banks fills me in on the precise details of his exchange with Blair. "I'm not an ambitious politician," he explains. "Tve never been much of a team player. I'm a bit semi-detached, as they say. I hadn't even supported his leadership bid. So it caught me completely on the What did he actually say, then? "I think that my exact words were: 'Fuck me'!"

Not the wittiest or wisest res ponse, perhaps, but at least an honest one. And a brace of words, moreover, that must have echoed round Westminster, if not the country, when Banks' appointment was announced. For as he is the first to

'I've never been much of a team player. I'm a bit semi-detached. I hadn't even supported Tony Blair's leadership bid'

admit, the dapper 55-year-old MP for the party line. Indeed, when the In-sependent photographer arrives. he shows just how unpredictable he is. His right profile, he tells us, is bet-

Returning for a moment to The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks, the Sports Minister is quoted as saying that: "I couldn't possibly emulate the feats of one D Mellor. Since the great days of Jimmy Greaves, it's the only time anyone's managed to score five times in a Chelsea shirt. The question we were all asking, of course, is did they change ends at

Whether or not he was correctly quoted, this is a reference, as everyone knows, to the extramarital frolics of his fellow Chelsea fan David Mellor To me, Banks points out that, compared with his own 45-year love offair, Mellor is "with great respect, a relative newcomer to Chelsea". But never mind football allegiances, or even Antonia de Sancha. I am eager to know what Banks really thinks of Mellor, head of football's socalled Task Force. For, except in their regard for Gianluca Vialli's squad rotation system, they are hardly soul-mates.

"I proposed his appointment to the Task Force," says Banks. "From a political point of view, it would have been easier to find someone else. sporting issues and damned if he



Tony Banks has courted controversy as Minister for Sport but not even his detractors would deny that he has a formidable appetite for the job Robert Hallam

wanted someone with ministerial experience, with a knowledge of football and a feeling for football, and someone who knew how far government could go. We also wanted someone with a platform, which David had with Six-0-Six [the Radio

Five Live phone-in]. "Love him or hate him, he does have a useful position in the game. And I've been very grateful for the enormous amount of work he has done without any remuneration but a lot of insults. When I look at the quality of the Task Force's reports, I think my choice has been vindicated. I am perfectly happy

Like Mellor, Banks is more used to receiving brickbats than bouquets. In particular, he was slated, as was his boss Tony Blair, for interfering in l'affaire Hoddle. But there is a sense in which he is damned if he offers his opinion on

But it was a choice for football. We doesn't, and he is jolly pleased with me for pointing this out.

"You've put your finger on it," he says. "Actually, it was the Independent who first phoned me up on the Friday night to ask about Glenn Hoddle, and I tried to keep out of it. But by the next day there was such a controversy raging, and so all I said was that I thought his position was be-coming untenable. You can interpret that as you will. At no point did I say he should resign. I know Glenn Hoddle pretty well. He is a decent guy. But he got out of his depth. And although he is fully entitled to his opinion, it was dangerous to talk about reincarnation when his source a faith-healer who was herself unable to explain what it was all about. I heard an interview in which she suggested that a child starving in Africa could have been Hitler in a previous life. That's a statement which, at the very least, can be

Ten minutes has passed and still the great controversialist has said nothing particularly controversial, even if some folk might quibble with the view that David Mellor is a boon to football. In an attempt to up the ante. I ask Banks to expand on a remark attributed to him to the effect that darts should become an

Olympic sport. "Don't laugh at me for saying it should be," he says, "tell me why it shouldn't be. I think it's perfectly reasonable. Darts is a very good sport and millions of people play it. Archery is a recognised Olympic sport, after all. And the definition of what is sport is highly subjective. I was not some learned religion but have fought to have chess recognised as a sport, and it is not a semantic point, because once it is recognised as a sport it can receive Sports Council money. Besides, sports go in and out of fashion. Not many people know that we are still the Olympic tug-of-war champions,

and 1912 or whatever. France, South Africa at rugby. And we all champions at cricket. Well, it's no more ridiculous having darts in the Olympics than tug-of-war."

The idea of men shaped like ing to climb the Olympic podium of a Sid Waddell murmuring "he's just three arrers away from Olympic gold, but first, a sip of lager" - is, I have to say, irresistible. Banks has won me over completely. But, even if I had wanted to take issue, it would not have been easy. For he talks about nearly everything with passion verging on vehemence, combined with a politician's unwavering self-

"Without doubt, sport is one of the strongest motivating forces within a community, be it a village, a town, a city or a country," he continues. "Even if you are not necessarily interested in sport, you still feel the vibes of sporting success,

believe it or not, are still the Olympic saw the scenes when France won the World Cup. Here was a country not really addicted to football, and divided by racism, fielding the most ethnically mixed team imaginable Jocky Wilson and Leighton Rees try- and uniting the country in a way politicians could only dream about. I'm not suggesting that politicians use sport, although some have. I am suggesting that we put more resources in and give it a higher political priority. But sport needs a

more effective lobby. If I have to do

a deal with the devil, I will get an

effective lobby."

Hang on. Who's this devil exactly. Tony Blair? Margaret Thatcher? Arsene Wenger ("I would rather die than go to Arsenal" - Tony Banks, Hansard, 5 May, 1994)? Disappointingly, Banks plays a straight bat. "The devil is inside you," he explains. "But there are other problems. Sport is so much bigger than it used to be, so enormous demands

ed in the 19th century. We gave many modern sports to the world, but we haven't moved on structurally. That's why there are problems with the administration of football, of rugby union, rugby league, snook er... I keep telling the governing bodies that they need to put far more pressure on government to win

Indeed. Not even the detractors of Tony Banks would deny that he has a formidable appetite for his job, and is moved by a sincere desire to improve Britain's sporting institu-tions. Which is all well and good, but his fine intentions have not yet reduced the cost of watching Premiership football, for instance, which for many people remains all but prohibitive. Take his own beloved Chelsea. What does his season ticket cost?

"It costs £1.250," he says, "And it's going up to £1,400. Which I pay because I am hooked into it, and I like seeing stars playing for Chelsea, and I like the facilities at Stamford Bridge, but, yes, my job is not to look after me but the nippers who would like to do what I did in 1954-55, and go to every single home match.

"Football has to be careful that it doesn't exclude its future fan base. I have asked the Task Force in its final report to address merchandising, ticket prices, strip prices, to see whether there is a coherent case for some sort of regulator who can intervene without disrupting the structure of football and protect the interests of the fans. Of course, it would be better for football to address these concerns itself. It has an opportunity to

'There are so many people in sport too busy fighting their own little turf wars to see the bigger picture'

regulate itself more effectively, but allow things to drift." Moreover, Banks reckons that

he has no time to allow things to drift. "What can be given with a phone call can be taken away. I haven't got the luxury of going slow, but I am constantly frustrated by the piecemeal, patchwork, divisive shape of sport in this country. People don't know how fragmented it is. There are five sports councils and four sports ministers. Actually, I believe in a dimension called Britain. It happens when we go to the Olympics. We might see ourselves as four countries, but in sporting terms, the world sees us as one."

At last, a whiff of controversy. It appears that Tony Banks, firm supporter of Scottish and Welsh devolution, craves a national football team containing Ryan Giggs as well as Alan Shearer, playing in Belfast and roared on by the Tartan Army. Yes? "All I'll say is that there is a coherent case to be made for a single team in a number of sports," he says, adding: "There are so many people in sport too busy fighting their own little turf wars to see the bigger picture. I can see the bigger picture and sometimes it desponds me and makes me feel very pessimistic. But then we win things and I realise that winning is all in sport." having won gold medals in 1908 for instance when England beat are being made of structures root. As it is, of course, in politics.

Chelsea wrong to retain Rix

Sir: Writing as a Chelsea supporter who desperately thats to see his club win as many trophies as possible, I find the club's attitude over Graham Rix's conviction totally incomprehensible. I can only wonder if Chelsea's more than generous stance towards the disgraced coach would be so understanding if the girl in question had been Mr Bates'

15-year-old daughter. I think not. Parents of apprentices and junior players at Chelsea FC should be sleeping uncomfortably at the thought of a registered sex offender possibly coming into contact with their children once he has served his time.

Bill Shankly's adage about "life and death" and football would Veem totally out of sync with today's moral code. In fact I should imagine he is turning in his grave at some of the current so-called heroes.

So, come on Cheisea, "play up" and do the decent thing. Admit

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity you made a mistake like your errant coach and put right the

to help football repair its tarnished image. LUIS MELVILLE Northolt, Middlesex

Bad role model

moral wrong you have committed

Sir. The alacrity with which Chelsea FC reassured Graham Rix that his job would be waiting for him when he gets out of prison, after being convicted of having unlawful sex and indecent assault, was yet another depressing indication of the lack of any moral dimension in football's world view.

The game has become little more than a machine for making money. As part of this process, it premotes an aggressive and sc ipsistic model of "maleness",

characterised by petulant and foul-mouthed immaturity on the pitch and arrogant, sometimes violent, behaviour off it. As ever-more obscene amounts

grotesquely misinterpreted."

of money pour into the pockets of the relatively small number of people at the top end of the game, so everything becomes excusable. The men who play the game, the golden geese, are always "the lads", and every appalling piece of behaviour particularly towards women, is portrayed as high spirits or, at the worst, a peccadillo, forgivable after a few mumbled, shamefaced platitudes on television. After all, the crowds love it, so who cares?

We should not be surprised, however, if our young males, who are genially encouraged to have an unhealthy obsession with "the game" from the age of four or five upwards, do not just ape the violent and triumphalist

behaviour of their heroes, but adopt some of their more unattractive attitudes as well. Now that it has become de riqueur for the middle classes to proclaim their footballing credentials at every opportunity and dress little Sam and Toby in their favourite club's garish strip, I'm afraid the prep schools of the land may be in for a good deal of

SPORTS LETTERS

behaviour. COLIN JORDAN Chiswick.

unacceptable off-the-ball

Over the top

Sir: Casting a fleeting glance at this week's newspapers, people may have been confused into thinking that England had just won the football World Cup, not completed a 3-1 win over Poland, a team 16 places below them in

the world rankings. A better team than Poland would have exposed England's weak full-backs.

In October, after a goalless draw against Bulgaria, a team just three places below Poland in the Fifa rankings, the press called for Glenn Hoddle's head and supporters were left questioning if England would qualify. We should still question. Both Sweden and, it can be argued, Poland, are in better positions to qualify than England.

Are the press so naïve that a victory ensures we are world beaters, and a loss relegates us to the sidelines?

For Keegan, if this is the pandemonium that surrounds a victory in the first of his four internationals, what will happen if he wins all four? Perhaps he is employing a similar fortune teller to Hoddle. The headlines following Hoddle's first match in

charge, a 3-0 victory away in Moldova, were similar to those Keegan is experiencing now.

GARY JACOB St Catherine's College,

Handled badly

Sir: The second goal scored by Paul Scholes in the Poland game was, quite clearly, handball and should not have been allowed, yet Kevin Keegan was reported to have said something along the lines of: "I don't care how he did it. I was just glad to see it go in." No doubt this sentiment will be echoed by the red-tops and all other like-minded exponents of

"the glorious game". Are these

the same people who disparaged

Mr Maradona's effort with such

venom? No, surely not. PJ HILL Liverpool

Foreign bodies

Sir: In his excellent weekly rugby column, Alan Watkins has mentioned that England do not tend to use players from abroad. It is interesting to note that a quick check of the Planet Rugby England team details revealed the following:

a. Steve Ojomoh, Adedayo Adebayo and Victor Ubogu are all

b. Mike Catt is as South African as Dion O'Cumnegain (Irish

c. Kyran Bracken is Irish and has won an Under-14 medal with Leinster

d. Kevin Yates is Canadian. It would be a useful exercise to compare the size of the rugby playing population in England to that of the other Home Unions and compare the number of foreigners used by the Scottish.

the Irisb and the Weish. Also, to my knowledge, France use Morroco in much the same way as New Zealand use Western Samoa. It's just that the talent pool is that much smaller

VAL DAVEY Address supplied

In the fast lane to Olympic gold

THE FIRST thing you notice about James Hickman is his confidence. Not the sensecringing bombast of Prince Naseem Hamed, who repels almost as readily as he attracts. but the easy calm of a man who

Self-belief drips from him with the same regularity as the water he has dragged from the pool with his powerful frame. Which, considering we are talking about a British swimmer, a breed not known for traveiling to major championships with anything more potent in their luggage than hope, confronts your assumptions. We are good losers handicapped by poor facilities, aren't we? Not Hickman.

"I want to win every 200m butterfly race between now and Sydney," the 23-year-old Mancunian said - an ample wish-list but one he has so far fulfilled. You have to go back to February 1998 since Hickman trailed in the slipstream of anyone, which, when you consider Britain's last swimming Olympic gold was won by Adrian Moorhouse 10 years ago, is an acute departure from recent precedent.

Hickman is good. He also knows it. He is No1 in the world at the 100 metres and 200m butterfly and is in the top 10 in eight other disciplines, and you do not get ranks like that if you are cowed by others. He wants the impression of his winning to be burned in the minds of his rivals so he can arrive at next year's Olympics with his opponents half beaten.

The World Short Course Championships, starting today in Hong Kong, where he defends his 200m title, is part of that image projection. "I see it as a ladder," he said.

"I want people to keep seeing me win. The more I do that the more people will expect me to be there, which will affect my rivals and make it easier for myself. The last time I went to the Olympics I was trying to win; next time I'll be going there to win - which is a totally different thing. I now know I have the

At Atlanta, Hickman was a rare British success, setting national records in the 100m and 200m butterfly, and his curriculum vitae since has world,



James Hickman at Leeds International Pool. His coach, Terry Denison, worked with Adrian Moorhouse, Britain's last Olympic gold medal winner

if that suggests a graph with the line heading resolutely upwards, the impression is wrong. There have been troughs - and few deeper than the European Championships in Seville in

Hickman had arrived in Spain a strong favourite, but food poisoning debilitated and dehydrated him, so swimming was just about the last thing on his mind, and after withdraw ing from the 200m he finished 14th in the shorter event. "Td just won the world short

course and I think there was a little bit of anxiety," he admitted. "I wanted to stay there, to prove I deserved my gold medal - that it wasn't just a case of winning once and never again - so I trained too hard. I was ex-

olds highlighted within it. But tremely fit but sometimes ath- and dogs at times" - and this was fantastic," he said, "and it's letes can be on the borderline of becoming ill. I picked up a virus that knocked me for six. I lost a stone in weight in four days. It was 46C most days, incredibly hot and humid, and I

was a long way downhill from the apex. The 1998 World Champion-

ships were coming up," he said. "I was trying to concentrate on my swimming but a lot was going on in my head. My times pletely. I had grown up, it was

paying off now but it got to the point where I had to move on. "Dave and I had been work-

ing together a long time, since I was young, and we grew away from each other com-

'The last time I went to the Olympics I was trying to win; next time I'll be going there to win. I now know I have the ability'

That intestinal turmoil was were down, I was rowing with also reflected in Hickman's my coach. It was a real low." mind because his relationship In retrospect, his seemingwith the Stockport Metro coach ly disappointing fifth place in Dave Calleja, who had guided the 200m at Perth can be seen with a rosier tint, but it did not him since he was a child, was disintegrating. Even at its best change his own view that a split was inevitable.

my career and I wanted to take charge of myself. There often. We didn't sit down and talk about it but we both knew the split was coming."

There were other factors. too. At Stockport the emphasis "The work I did at Stockport was on 25m work whereas butterfly) and two silvers (200

"It's worked well," he said. Adrian Moorhouse to the last swimming gold medal we had and he's very well respected. Leeds is pretty close to home

Hickman wanted to concen-

trate on long course and, after

meeting several potential men-

tors, he chose Terry Denison at

Hickman said. "He coached

added to his Commonwealth

Games haul of a gold (200m

"He's a fantastic coach,"

the City of Leeds.

"What I have achieved gives me great confidence. To have a world record, to have swum and my parents in Manchester, faster than anyone else, proves it's a 50m pool, a hard-working you have the skill, so let's go and programme like I'm used to at tockport, it seemed ideal." Now means Hong Kong, but Sydney is not too far away - and Hickman has moved to

Bramley and it is hard to imaghow many other Britons will be going to the Olympics as a ine a richer result because in the past year he has broken two strong medal prospect? world records, won three Eu-Hickman will, and the next ropean titles and would have

and 400 individual medleys) if

he had not been disqualified

controversially for a false start

The line on the graph, it can

afely be said, is heading in the

in the 100m butterfly.

right direction again.

four days will help tell him and others whether gold will be the metal. The branding of minds

Virenque faces doping charge

BY KIERAN DALY

RICHARD VIRENQUE, the fourtime King of the Mountains in the Tour de France, has been charged by a magistrate with breaking France's anti-doping

Patrick Keil, the magistrate in charge of the inquiry launched after the Festina team masseur Willy Voet was found with a boot load of drugs en route to the start of last year's Tour de France, informed Virenque by letter that he was being charged.

The 28-year-old lead cyclist in the Festina team last season is accused with knowingly using and administering doping products and complicity to import, hold, transfer, supply and acquire poisonous and prohit ited substances. Virengue, who now rides for the Italian Polti team, has persistently denied ever taking banned substances. declaring that official tests that appeared to contradict him were false.

Voet, who was later dismissed by Festina, claimed Virenque took up to 100 injections of the banned drug EPO every year. He accused both Virenque and team-mate Pascal Herve, who has also denied any drug-taking, of being liars and being the biggest consumers of doping products. EPO boosts the oxygen content in the blood and thus can boost endurance.

The investigators' report, compiled following blood tests. urine and hair tests, stated that: "The riders took EPO exogenously, meaning the hormone was given to them externally."

Doubts still remain as to whether all the riders were fully aware of what they were

The four Spanish teams who staged a walk-out during last vear's Tour de France -Banesto, ONCE, Vitalicio and Kelme – have returned to France this week for the Criterium International race.

It is the first time ONCE and Banesto have raced in France since the Tour de France last year, when police raided team hotels and an ONCE doctor was placed under investigation on doping charges.

England call up Kear as coach

JOHN KEAR, the Sheffield Eagles coach, is to take charge of England for two games against France this autumn.

.Kear, ironically a former French national coach as well as an assistant with Great Britain, will steer the English side while the full Test team is in Australasia under Andy Goodway. The home nations are to compete separately in the World Cup in 2000 and England's games against France are seen as a crucial part of the preparation for the tournament.

David Howes and Damien. McGrath, both of Leeds, are to be manager and assistant coach respectively. Kear, who guided Sheffield to the Challenge Cup last year, has already described himself as "flattered" to be on Leeds' short-list to replace Graham Murray as coach at the end of this season.

Ellery Hanley has introduced an alcohol ban on his St Helens players as they prepare for their Easter matches. The Saints coach, himself a teetotaller has insisted the players stay dry until after the match at London on 9 April.

to only drinking immediately after matches, but the new

MARK PEARN, Reading's 22-

year-old striker, celebrated his

50th appearance for England

with two goals in their 6-2 vic-

tory against South Africa in

After two draws against Ar-

gentina which promised more

than they achieved, England

were off to a good start against

South Africa, quickly putting be-

hind them the thoughts of their

two defeats in Pretoria last

year when the teams last met.

Russel Garcia opened the scoring in the fourth minute with a

flick at their first penalty corner.

taking a deflection past the

goalkeeper and Pearn's first

goal from a reverse stick shot,

With George Clover's shot

Buenos Aires yesterday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

discipline with which Hanley intends to run his ship, although he stressed that there had been no drink problem since his arrival this winter. "We have a very demanding

Easter programme of three games in eight days and I believe that alcohol impairs your judgement," he said. Saints' next game is on Good Friday at Wigan, whose coach.

John Monie, has followed his usual policy of naming his team early. Dwayne West, the son of the former Wigan coach, Graeme, is in line to make his debut from the bench. Wigan have had several inquiries from potential spon-

sors and ground advertisers in the 24 hours since the announcement that Super League is to be shown on terrestrial TV for the first time, in a half-hour weekly programme on BBC2 which starts in May. Salford have become the first

HOCKEY

England built up a useful 3-0 in-

A rare Calum Giles goal in

open play following good work

by Danny Hall and a corner

conversion by Giles extended

from Surbiton players - Gregg

Clark and Greg Nicol - who

scored at one of the four penalty

corners they were awarded, but despite this comeback in the

closing minutes it was Pearn.

with his second just two minutes

from time, who confirmed Eng-

land's supremacy.

South Africa's two goals came

BY BILL COLWILL

England's lead to 5-0.

terval lead.

rugby league club to win the Investors in People award. The They were already restricted government-backed scheme measures the performance of companies in staff training and rule is symptomatic of the tight development.

Pearn strikes twice

CATTERICK

HYPERION

2.20 Guest Of Honour 2.50 San Michel 3.20 Once More For Luck 3.55 Jorrocks 4.25 Gunner Sam 5.00 Romero

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places). STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best over 6f on soft ground.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best over 6f on soft ground.

Ill Left-hand course, undulating and sharp.

Course is NW of fown on AGT&C Darlington station 14m - buses to course. ADMISSION: Club £12; Teitersalis £8; Course £250 (under 16s free all enclosures). CAR PARIC Reserved £2; rest free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS:

ILLEADING TRAINERS: J Berry 27-148 (18.2%), B Hillis 16-48 (34.9%), M W Easterby 14-123 (11.4%), M Johnston 3-73 (16.7%).

ILLEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley 25-130 (19.2%), J Fortune 17-117 (14.5%), J Carroll 17-26 (19.5%), L Charmock 12-148 (8.1%).

FAVOURITES: 171-427 (4.0%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Detroit City (visored, 2.50), Ryeffeld Star (2.50).

2.20 SPRINGTIME CLASSIFIED STAKES

ı		(CLASS F) £3,000 added 310 5f
ļ	1	-03144 ANNUE APPLE (27) D Nicholis 8 11Alex Greave
ı	2	00-040 GOCHENOS (48) S.C. Williams 8 11 K. Fello
	3	0500- MANZONI (162) M W Easterby 8 11
ì	4	1433-4 OFF HERE (75) (D) C Smith 8 11
ľ	5	5010-4 CELTIC SEAL (42) (D) J Belding 88 Edmund
ı	6	4250-0 COOL KATIE (25) K Ryan 8 8 A McCarthy (2
Į	7	COC- GUEST OF HONOUR (166) 8 Hils 8 8 D Hoten
ł	8	03-354 LADYCAKE (18) (D) J Berry 8 8 J Cerrol :
ı	9	30005- WESTWOOD VIEW (167) J.J. Quint 68 Fortun
ı	_	_ C declered _

- 9 deciared -BETTING: 6-4 Guest Of Honoux, 7-2 Ladycaka, 9-2 Armie Apple, 6-1 Off Hire, 8-1 Gochinou, Cetic Saal, 10-1 Cool Katis, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A tricky race for punters, with little solid turf form to go on and most of it shown over five months ago, it would be no surprise if GUEST OF HONOUR proves a cut above the motley bunch, but that view is only based on the speed she showed for 4f in a 6f Newmarket maiden, and the fact that Berry Hills has a 35% strike rate at Cettenck. Off Hire and Celtic Seal

2.50 FORCETT SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) -31146 ALAMEN (USA) 69 (CD) D Nichols 6 9 12.

		the state of the s
2	00:300	BATSKAN (23) (D) M Docts 5 9 12 J West
3	0-6606	DETROIT CITY (35) (D) 8 Rothwell 4 9 12 R Winston (3)
4	6000-4	THE WOODCOCK (30) 8 Has 4 9 12
5	0-6550	LANCASHIRE LEGEND (18) (D) W Brishourse 6 9 6
6	660304	PRINCIPAL BOY (30) (D) Mas J Creze 6 9 6 S Webste
7	00005-	QUIZ MASTER (137) E Waymes 4 9 6
В	0540-0	RYEFIELD STAR (53) D McCain 496 Charnock
9		SAN MICHEL (72) JL Eyre 798
70	05-40	SCATHEBURY (23) (CD) (BF) K Burks 6 9 8 J Fortus
1		SYCAMORE LODGE (180) (SP) D Nichols 596 . Alex Granes
_		WAITWSEE (163) IS W Essenby 4.98 S Fernamore (7
. 0		WALL NIGHT CONTRACT IN THE STREET OF A FIRST CONTRACT OF

3 43400/ ABSOLUTELY ABSTONE (502) W Brisbourie 5 9 1 ...

den (3) 16 2 36300- CLAIM GEBAL CLAIM (163) Mrs A Smirbank 3 8 5 . G Dud

FORM VERDICT

The Woodcock is arguably the most riferesting runner here, judged on his Nottingham win, but he is probably not one to rely on. ALAMEIN is preferred, while Scatthebury should go

well and Tenered Arms can prove the pick of the 3yos. 3.20 WHORLTON HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,500 added 1m 5f 175yds

"43"4- ONCE MORE FOR LUCK (J13) (C) Mrs M Reveley 8 10 0

- BETTING: 11-4 Kathryn's Pet. 7-2 Heedwood Spirit, 11-2 Once More For Luck, 13-2 Alderych Arrow, 7-1 Dana Point, 8-1 Turgenev, Heeta La Vista, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

has a touch of class at this level, and although he may be the Reveley second string, he makes as much appeal as any. Stablemate Kethrym's Pet should go close too, while The Great Flood is worth noting in the market.

3.55 GODS SOLUTION HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,500 added 7f 10000- ROYAL MARK (165) (D) D Nicholls 8 10 0 Alex Greaves 16 30003- JORROCKS (USA) (184) (D) M W Essierby 5 9 13... G Pentin 4

0,000, 00:0100:01 (00.3 (10.4 (2) v. v. 0000.2) 0.0 -00.1 (10.1)
30/00- REQUESTOR (321) J FizGerald 4 9 13
0000-0 [MCHALONG (23) (D) M Brittein 4 9 6
05000 - PIERPOINT (195) D Nicholis 4 9 3 P Clarks (7) 2
-62302 KASS ALHAWA (16) (CD) D Chapman 693 A Culhane 10
00420- BACHELORS PAD (209) D Nichols 5 9 1 J Carroll 15
05635- FINISTERRE (J57) (CD) J.J. (Theil 6.9.0
440-04 KING UNO (33) (D) E Akston 5 9 0
351-32 RAMBO WALTZER (54) (D) (BF) D Micholis 7 8 11 K Fallon 8
08428) JOHN BOWDLER MUSIC (18) M Johnston 4 8 (1.D Holland 1
14050- LUNCH PARTY (166) (CD) J Berry 7 8 8lone Wands (5) 8
00000- BERNARDO BELLOTTO (159) D Nichalls 4 B B F Norton 5
05000- FILEY BRIGG (152) W Kemp 4 8 8
2400- BOLLIN ETHOS (237) (CD) T Easterby 4 8 7 L Charmock 14
6060S- LIFT THE OFFER (181) (D) J J Quint 486R Winston (3) 12
25423 C-HARRY (9) (D) R Hollinshead 5 6 3
-06105 HEVER GOLF GLORY (15) C Kellett 583
40 december 1

~ 18 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Rembo Waltor, 5-1 Lunch Perty, 8-1 Royal Mark, Kase Alberea, King Uno, 12-1 Jorrocks, Finisterre, Lift The Offer, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT A wide-open race. KING LINO, from an in-form yard and corning here after giving a broad hint that he was about to hit form again last time, has solid claims, though his outside draw is a concern. Last year's second, Rambo Waltzer, one of five David Nicholls-trained runners, none of whom can be ruled out, is a Reely danger, as is Lift The Offer.

4.25 TOYTOP MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f 624-30 DAZZLING STONE (30) C Farturs: 5 9 10 | Grandburn (7)

gencia, 25-1 Horton Lights, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT

GUNNER SAM is the clear pick on Juvenile form and though much can happen in the close season break, none of his light-by raced rivals showed anything like enough last season to ment close consideration. Basically, if Gunner Sam runs to his juvenile form, he will be hard to beat.

E AA YARM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500

Ŀ	5.00	added 3YO 1m 4f
1	0503	FLY LIKE A BERES (178) S Woods 9 7
2		ROMERO (6) C Thornton 95
3		Fortune 4
4		SADDLERS' GLORY (166) C Farburst 9 2
5	540-05	TUNNEL BRIDGE (25) K Ryan 90 A McCarthy (3) 9
6		LOST SPERT (12) (D) (BF) P Hists 85 Charmock 1
7		THE LAST WORD (25) R Hollinshead 8 4 P M Caulum (7) 6
8	400	JUST A SNACK (147) M A Buckley 8 3 J Familing 2
9		STANLEY WIGHELD (USA) (21) D Nichols 8 3 F Notion 3
Ŋ	0000-	NIGHTGLADE (196) M Brittan 7 10
		- TO declared

Minimum weight 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Nightglade 7st 7th. BETTING: 3-1 Romero, 4-1 Fly Lilas A Blied, 5-1 Rum Pointer, 11-2 Lost Spirit, 7-1 Stanley Wilglield, 8-1 Tannel Bridge, The Last Word, 10-1 oth-

FORM VERDICT

The Last Word and proven stayer Lost Spirit are well weighted on their AW form and are much respected, perticularly the last-named. Preference, though, is for ROMERO, who is able to race off the same merk as for last week's Doncester second in a better-contested race than this. He is the one to best on that improved form.

FOLKESTONE

HYPERION

2.00 First Blood 2.30 Ivory's Joy 3.00 Tiger Talk 3.30 Ajig Dancer 4.05 Diplomat 4.40 Lennox 5.15 Piaf

GOING: Soft. STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - outside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best 5t, 6t & 1m 2t.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best 5t, 6t 8. Im 2t

Right-hand, undusting course.

Course is 6m W of lown off A2t. Westenhanger station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club & Textersalis 20; Floric Park 32 per car plus 24 per occupant. Under-ries free. CAR PARK: Free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hannon 15-124 (121%), 3 Duniop 12-47 (255%), W Mair 9-46 (195%), G L liftcore 9-82 (17%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: Dane O'Nelli 19-125 (152%), T Quien 19-29 (147%), S Sanders 17-140 (21%), Paul Eddery 18-94 (17%).

FAVOURITES: 157-474 (33.1%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Going Places (visored, 2.30).

2.00 HEADCORN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (F) \$2,750 added 2YO 5f LADY EXCALIBER J Culture 88.... VICTORIET A T Murphy 89

BETTING: 11-4 Cowboys And Angels, 7-2 First Blood, Master Fay, 8-1 Hentigs, Step Up, Commodbird, 14-1 Victorist, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Bill Turner has quickly made an impact with his juveniles this season, and the speedily-bred COWBOYS AND ANGELS appeals as another likely to make his presence left. Conversely, likely channon's youngsters have yet to shine, and it seems significant that Richard Curin – associated with most of the stablets runners this term – partners First Blood for Terry Mills.

2.30 ROCHESTER HANDICAP (CLASS E)

FORM VERDICT

Of those proven in the conditions, FACILE TIGRE makes most appeal, though an extra furling would be ideal. Going Piscae, has possibilities each way, Horses racing on the far side when the ground is soft have a significant advantage, and Landican Lane is the pick of those drawn on that wing

3.00 ALDINGTON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) 52,750 added 3YO 71

- 16 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Berebeschi, 7-2 Tiger Tatk, 9-2 Khibrah, 10-1 Embetde, First Fantasy, 14-1 Enflade, 16-1 Mr Stylish, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A three-way affair on form between BARABASCHI, Tiger Talk, and Khitorah. The last-named baled to confirm debut promise on her second start, and the issue could nest between the colls. Barry Hills made this usual quick start to the last season at Domastic, and Tiger Talk could find this 7f ideal, but marginal preference is for the well-galloped Barabaschi.

3.30 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (CLASS E)

FORM VERDICT

With two front-numers drawn nearby, Alig Dancer should have the race set up for her and she will be a warm order to fol-tow up her weekend success. But her overall record suggests caution, and MARK TIME, whose stable has been in good form over jumps, is suggested as the value each-way ophon.

4.05 SHORNECLIFFE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (F) \$2,750 3YO 6f

- 5 deciared - 5 d

FORM VERDICT This represents a drop in class for ELMHURST BCY, who showed enough lest autumn to suggest that he can hold his own at this level. There are question-marks against both Bread Milliones and Dislowers.

4.40 KINGSNORTH HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 4f

Cuestro 7st Stb, Crash Call Lady 7st 2b.
BETTING: 5-2 Lennox, 7-2 Elle Cuestro, 5-1 Crash Call Lady, 6-1 Gold Honor, 7-1 Lucky Nemo, 10-1 Zola, 20-1 Lady Coldunell, Superbob FORM VERDICT

Little turf form to go on a a weak race, it may pay to give LENNOX another chance to fulfil critial juvenile promise, but the le far from a confident choice. 5.15 ALKHAM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 1f 149yds

- 14 declared - BETTING: 7-2 L.S. Lowry, 4-1 Secret Dali, 7-1 Super Dollar, Entin's Chill Wind, 8-1 Pief, 10-1 Weisth Assembly, Compton Amica, Brave Vision, Catch Bell,

FORM VERDICT

L.S. Lowny has solid-looking credentials but that will proba-bly be reflected in his price, so as much larger edds WELSH ASSEMBLY is a speculative choica. The booking of a capable apprentice is quite a positive sign for today and he would be fairly weighted if he did come back to his best.

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Append to Company The second secon 2 1/4 10 to - It grand the day PARVEW NEW HOMES NOMES

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Virenque la faces

Hawke ready to appreciate high life

tional Hunt race riding is that it can bring acute delight and grief in adjacent packages. One minute a jockey can be at the peak of his profession, the next he may plummet as if the lift cable has been severed. It is not a nhenomenon you have to expan to Nigel Hawke.

It was in 1991 that the young rider used up all his credit. Seagram won the Ritz Club Chase at the Cheltenham Festival and then caught Garrison Savannah on the merciless Aintree runin to prevent Jenny Pitman's horse completing a Gold Cup-Grand National double. The journeyman had reached the ul-

Cavalier over the most de-

2.05 Native Recruit

3.10 Country Beau

....

and the co

2.40 Strong Paladin (nb)

3.40 RED GUARD (nap)

By RICHARD EDMONDSON

are allowed to undertake.

could at least ensure he enjoys their blessing a little more this time around. "It just all happered so quickly on Seagram that I couldn't really appreciate it," he says. "You never catch up with yourself. I wouldn't mind

"I just happened to be on the the right horse on the right day, which doesn't happen all the time when you're a jockey. I

"At Newton Abbot I got a blood clot on the inside of my brain and they wouldn't let me was the wrong place at the

pital and it's frightening when you see the people in there around you. You realise how lucky you've been.

"It was different from Declan Murphy's problem, because he had his blood clot on the outside of the brain where you could operate on it. With me, they just didn't know what to do. Hopefully it's dispersed now, but there are no certainties. I get tired, but you get tired doing

tired when talking about Kendal Cavalier, his first winner of the season when he collected the Welsh National just other day in the sunshine they 10 days after being a Christmas present when relocated from

> The grey is not particularly well named as he is neither supercilious nor flashy. He is the Pheidippides of the horse kingdom who only starts running when the tread is starting to disappear. "He's not a straightforward horse," Hawke says.

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Elle Questro (Folkestone 4.40)

"He's got his way of doing

"The first half mile in the National will tell us everything. If things don't go right for him early on in a race he goes nowhere. He loses interest. It just all depends on whether he takes to it." It is the thought of this horse that helps his confederates through the black mornings at Holemoor House Stables near Chard in Somerset. You do not get out on the

"We've been quiet since Christmas because we've had a problem. The horses have been throwing the odd cough. But they're coming right again. week that went well and he seems very well and his blood

is right again.
"He's the forgotten horse of the race. If the ground came right - and that means the softer the better - I seriously think he's the one to beat."

Kendal Cavalier will jump Lambourn trial grounds this morning, an addition to the recent racecourse work be completed with a fellow Liverpool consideration, Coome Hill.

It was announced yesterday that the gelding trained on the Cornish Riviera will be ridden in the big one by Steve Wynne following the retirement of his usual partner, Jamie Osborne. It will be a first National ride for the 26-year-old.

was made yesterday when Norman Williamson confirmed he would ride General Wolfe for the

Hawke does not, though, get Grand National horse in the Venetia Williams and The Winyard. "He's kept everyone's ning Line. The Irishman, who morale up," Hawke says. "Hav- has just spent several days ing a horse like that makes us all forget about the hard work and keep going.

recharging at the Dubai World Cup meeting, had also been linked with Betty's Boy and Nahthen Lad.

Tony Dobbin, successful in the National two years ago on Lord Gyllene, put his mount this year, Avro Anson, through We had one or two run last a schooling session yesterday and was pleased with the examination results. "He was having a bit of a look round being out there on his own, but he jumped the last three brilliantly. He's in good form and we're hoping for good ground."
The connection between

Rough Quest, the 1996 Nationthe Aintree-style fences on the al winner, and this year's contest grew increasingly slim following yesterday's bulletin which suggested the old man was more likely to run in the Foxhunters' Chase at the meeting. "I do feel the horse is in tremendous shape at the moment but with not being able to run on Saturday (because of Newbury's unsuitable firm ground) we've sort of run out of time," Terry Casey, the trainer, said. "At the moment we're not thinking about the National. He will probably be left in at the five-day stage but I would have to say that it's extremely unlikely that he'll run."



Kendal Cavalier demonstrates his grit in winning the Welsh National Green Crusader: Better for two comeback runs after a rest. Fine 3rd to Wisley Won-

Green Crusader: Better for two comeback rure after a rest. Fine 3rd to Wisley Wonder at Urtoester 11 days ago and every hope on taxoured surface. Afterfor Ex-Irish mudiover set a stiff teak at Newbury (fell 5th) in Flying Gunner's race. Rates an cutation on this fast surface. Bright Flantie: Winning stayer in the mud last season. Pulled up at Newton Abbot (first run for two monities) a fortright ago. May lack the pace on this ground. Galatason Jame: Winning novice chaser and also successful in 3-mile hundle at Chepstow last May. Loves fast ground and not highly tried on belated reappearace. Be My Mort: Besten Just under 3 longths by Equity's Darling at Folkestone last time. Allowed (10b but faster ground a worry.

Far Dawn: Not as good as when notching two wins in 1996. Stayed on in 6th to Equity's Darling at Sardown last time. Better chance on this faster surface.

Allowed ND but issuer ground a worry Far Dewn: Not as good as when notching two wins in 1996. Stayed on in 6th to Equity's Derling at Sandown last time. Better chance on this taster surface Balanetic Won 3-runner sitiat at Cartimal and had Green Crusader in 3rd when beeten under a length by Wisley Wonder at Uttoweter last time. Best form on softer ground Captain Jackic Kempton novice winner and lightly raced over jumps since. 20-length 4th of 6 to Teestral at Lebastar in early December and has been waiting for ground Wontcostalotbut. Both wins on soft ground and reluctant to race at Towester last time. 3rd to Atastsic at Kempton in January. Fast ground a problem Equity's Derling: Soft ground winner at Follestone and Sandown and creditable 3rd to Pealings at Lingilied, Faster ground a worry but goes well for claimer rider Another Night: Won at Chepstow in soft ground last season. 3rd to Five Flags at Towester but well held by Equity's Derling on previous start. Honey Mount: Weighted to reverse Kempton form with Be My Mot and 2nd to hot-pot Arotic Chanter at Tauriton in December. Purs fesh today and likes last ground Queen's Ridet Lighty-raced mere who stayed the trip Sm2) when a close 2nd to North Tyne at Hurtingdon last time. Promise beforehand and a live chance Bellind: Ground has counted against her this season (5th to Molsum at Hurtingdon last time), has won three times on tast surface so could surprise of the st

VERDICT: The ground is likely to count against many of these but not so GREEN CRUSADER, who can deliver a telling turn of tool, He has shown up well on both starts since returning from a rest and the ground gives him hope of beating these off top weight. Galatzarori Jame will also revel on the surface and she should be fit

Ø	HAT AND PICTURE MAHONIA HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £4,000 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £2,879	l R	_
	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	MELL OTHE RAGS (41) (Mrs JE Mickey) N King 10 12 4	i i	•
	RED RORY (8) (Max D H McCarthy) Mas D McCarthy 10 12 4	X,	ä
	SHAARD (USA) (7) (CD) (Peter Oldfeld) P Chemings 11 24	=	
	ARABIAN BOLD (25) (C) (F L Matthews) F Matthews 11 12 0	Sa	_
	CANESTER CASTLE (16) LI E Price) F Matthews 11 12 0		
	CONTI D'ESTRUVAL (P16) (D) (Terry E.G. Smith) Mas S. Mulins 9 12 0	Se	q
	DELIGHT (8) (Court K G-Saurau) Courtees G-Saurau 6 20_1Mr A Charles-Jones (5)	- 1 -	-
	DESERT CALM (7) (R N Rules) D McCain 10 12 0	۱.,	_
	DRUMSTICK (4) (D) (P W E Henri) Ness H Irving 13 12 0	C(Ä
	FATHER JACK (10) (Mas Tracey Lte) T Ide 8 12 0	-	-
	HALHAM TARN (8) (Mau Meris Turnell) G Brown 9 20		_
	KELTULLA (674) Li Townson) Mrs 9 Smith 9 12 0		
	MAN MOOD (FR) (21) (D) (Julian Robbins) E Hardood B 20 Mr G Harmer (5)		
	NET GOLIGHTLY (27) (CD) (Mrs B I Cobden) Mrs J Freed 12 12 0	ĺ	
N.E.	STRONG MEDICONE (P10) (D) (D) (D) D B A SEQ Mas H SEA 12 12 0		

– 15 declared – BETTING: 7-2 Strong Medicine, 4-1 Mr Golighty, 5-1 Shearid, 6-1 Hallman Tarm, 13-2 Delight, 7-1 MBI O'The Rega, 10-1 Drumetick, 16-1 others 1988: Busman 9 12 1 Mr D S Jones (7) 11-2 (K Pearce) 12 ran

Mill O'The Rags: Pulled up both starts this term. Wetherby where (2m4f) last sea-The stages Fulled up booth sarts and tents, we unably without (entire) east season and return to fast ground in his tayour.

Red Rony: Won maiden hunter on good ground at Folkestone last term. Well behind at Folkestone last term. Well behind at Folkestone last term. Well behind at Folkestone on reappearance shi to Grinnley Gale at Ludlow. Best Mill O'The Rage and Drumstick at Folkestone in May, Like tast ground

Bold: Smart performer the years ago but little to recommend him nowa-led up behind Hittorstown Lass at Doncaster last time) ater Castle: Has shown very little (pulled up Stratford 16 days ago) and now Count D'Estruvair Former (ast-ground lover and successful over this type of trip. Larkhill

casually when going well and trip and ground proved too much in the point won by Lie Detector from Strong Medicine next time Delight: Creditable placed runs in points and then 3rd to Verde Luna at Fontwell, finishing just, over a length behind Halhem Tarm treaming just, over a length better teament term. Desert Cales: Kept on to finish stor of 19 to Grimley Gale at Ludiow after 3rd to Gale Tol at Sandown. Every hope and will get time assistance from the sacidle Drumsticke AI his best on feat ground and will be fitter for seasonal 3rd to Craciding Idea at Cottenham. Has seen better days but this is jik ideal trip. Father Jack: Pulled up on reappearance in testing ground. Has test ground pedi-

Father Jack: Pulsed up on reapprenance in meaning grees or might, lust do better
thathem Turn: Every chance in modest race after 2nds to Orchestral Suite at Newbury and Verda Lusa at Forstwell (good to firm)
Kilituita: Maiden but has some fair form to his name. 5-length 2nd to Colonel in Chief
at Wetherby in May 1997 and likely to figure despite returning from layoff
till Man Micock Tailed off at Bangor on reappearance. Lest won Hereford in 1995

44- Co-Subable: Fast-conund lower and live chance on 2nd to Destin D'Estruval at Ban-

Mar Bolighty: Fast-ground lover and live chance on 2nd to Destin D'Estruval at Ban-gor and 3nd to Celtic Abbay at Ludiow Strong Medicline: Former smart handicapper when ground rode tast. Only 7th to Around The Horn at Sandown and 4-length 2nd to Lie Detector in point lest time VERDICT: In a trappy race there could be some value with KILTULLA, who is having he first start for almost two years. He has the form to take the beating and his cider rivels have all seen better days. Strong Medicine has always preferred this sort of ground and must hold a fighting chance, along with Halbata Tarm and Mr Gollighting.

5.25 WILD BOAR STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT (CLASS H) \$3,000

	added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,505
0	BEECHCROFT BAY (134) (W A Harrson-Aller) Mrs P Dutlied 5 11 6.N Willesington (7)
	BEFEWOLF (Mrs. J.T. Gillord) J. Gillord 5 11 6 L. Aspell
4	BORING GORING (42) (Goring Hotel) Miss A M Newton-Smith 5 11 6 Life S Stronge (7)
0	COUNTY FLYER (126) (R Heathmen Contractors) J S Smith 6 to 6
	CROSSY (David Cross Lateure Ltd) C Wasdon 5 to 6
	ICE COOL LAD (John Syrnes & Arthur Hayes) R Rove 5 11 6
06	MONTYS LAD (82) (Mrs. J Curriskey, M Doccey & K Doccey) A Certol 5 11 6 J Tizzand
	SELVER STREAK (Mrs Timothy Plicington) J Gallord 5 % 6
0	THE PUFFIN MAN (46) (Coin Frank) N Herclarger 6 7 6 L Victors (7)
210	BARNEY KNOWS (14) (D) (C N Barnes) M Pell 4 11 5
	JENNYPERINEY (Nigel Demoster) J Old 8 11 1
234	MACAW-BAY (47) (Gary J Roberts) A Cerrol 5 to 1
	JEHSKI (42) (Garaki Galveroni) T Cassy 4 10 12 A Bates (3)
	CHE NATION (The Earl Carlogan) Miss H Kright 4 10 12 M Butchelor (5)

- 14 declared -BETTING: 13-8 Barney Knows, 11-2 The Politin Blan, 10-1 ice Cool Led, Jeostypenn 12-1 Boring Goring, 14-1 Berevolf, Silver Street, Necesi-Bay, Jeostd, 20-1 others 1998: Kees Churn 5 10 12 Mr R Visitoy (3) 20-1 (6) J Price) 22 ran

Beechcroft Bay: No show behind Gunnerbiong at Newton Abbot in November Berewolf: One of 2 Josh Gifford runners. Newcomer son of Commanche Run Borling Gorling: Stiff teak on debut when 4th of 17 (but 11 lengthes) to hot terourite Dromdoma at Polisekine's in soft ground. May do better on the teater surface County Plyer: Son of Cruise Massie and 33-1 when besten 52 lengths behind Prosty Carryon in strong race at Cheostow

Crossy: Galded nawcomer son of Young Man. Stable to be respected les Cool Lack Glacial Storm newcomer from a stable that can win these races. Chance least sessessed by the market Monty's Lad: Unclaced behind Beccarat at Doncaster and Sendy Duff at Ludiow. Out of a Strong Gale mare so may improve signity on this faster surface Silver Street: Gelded son of Roseller and likely to act well on fast ground. May prove pick of Josh Gifford's two runners

The Putfin Ment: Easy to back on debut in Newbury race won by hotpot Golden Al-The Purint Ment: Easy to best on debut in Newbury race won by hotpor Golden Al-pha. Beatne 26 lengths in 8th but seure to Improve for experience Barrary Knows: Fine form with Musealburgh 2nd to Mr Lamb, Doncaster win from Baccerat and Challenham 10th (bith 11 lengths) to Monsignor. Excellent chance Jennitypsembry: Article Lord newcomer mane from a stable to be respected in these visces. Stouthy bred and may need more time. Macaw-Bay: Creditable 4th to Begant City at Bangor on 3rd start. May again find some time coord.

Jematic: Son of Patoski and well backed on debut when 6th to Dromdoran at Folks-stona. Finished 13 lengthe behind Boring Goring but better expected on this ground One Nation: Newcorner son of Be My Native out of a Deep Run mare. Likely to be

VERDICT: BARNEY KNOWS is out to boost the Cheltenham bumper form after This high a creditable tenth to Monetgnor. He bear to their invalis at Doncaster beforehand and should be up to this task. The opposition is nothing special, though The Petitin Man tooks the improver eiter Newbury. Josh Gifford runs two newcomers and the matter is best waiched over Hennista Knight's One Nation with Matt Batchelor booked.

Weighting on a Call

BRITAIN WILL have a maxi- with Ladbrokes for the 2,000 mum of six runners in Mon- Guineas, while Barry Hills's day's Irish Grand National at Auction House is down to 12-1 Fairyhouse, for which 29 were from 16-1 for the Guineas with declared yesterday. They are: the same firm. Cariboo Gold and Druid's Brook (trained by Kim Bailey), Full Of Oats (Philip Hobbs), Fanfaron (Charlie Egerton). Celtic Giant (Len Lungo) and Rightsaidfred (Anna Newton-Smith). The presence of Imperial Call, the 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, leaves all the British runners set to carry more than their true handicap

Meanwhile Godolphin's Iftitah has been cut to 7-1 from 8-1

the Same firm.

IRISH GRAND NATIONAL (Foryhouse, Monday: William Hilb: 7-1 Sch Treacy, Ceibc Gent, Papillon, 8-1 Bobbyya, 10-1 Hollybank Buck, 12-1 Glebe Lod, Imperal Call, Manus The Man, 14-1 Promaine, Rights, adried, Roundhood, 16-1 others Stanley; 7-1 Ceitc Gent, 15-2 Bob Treacy, Papillon, 8-1 Bobbyya, 11-1 Hollybank Buck, Improval Call, 2-1 Promaine, 14-1 Feathered Leader, Manus The Man, Roundwood, 16-1 Dhards Brook, Fox Chapel King, Full Of Cals, Glebe Lad, Rightsaidhed, Time For A Run, 20-1 Corbboo Cold, Rocketts Castle, The Cuarls, 25-1 Fanteron, Risk Of Thurder, 40-1 Uno Flatter, 50-1 Go Goellant, Tarthooth, The Real Article, 66-1 Ballymacrevan, Pauls Run, 100-1 Dearborn Tec, Onefourown.

2,000 GillhigAS, Maximanket, Seutrday, 1 too i basymastern, Paus Hurt, 1001 Dear-born Tec, Onefourown. 2,000 GUINEAS (Newmarket, Saprolay I Mayl: Ladbrokear 9-2 Mujahu, 7-1 Hoch, 9-6 Commander Collins, 10-1 Killer Instinct, Bal-let Maslet, Emique, 11-1 Block, Rock, Desert, Orpen, 12-1 Auction House, 20-1 others.

FIRST SHOW ASCOT 3.10 De Cresson 10-3 11-4 9-4 11-4 13-4 31 31 31 103 31 103 103 7-2 31 103 eme Chana 103 7-2 7-2 4-1 4-1 mitre Brance B-1 7-1 B-1 15-2 13-2 MATE Coords 71-1 12-1 16-1 10-1 10-1

A	SC	ЭΤ	3.4	0	
	C	H	Ł	8	
Baba As Rham	5-t	41	92	11-2	1
Tyroleen Drawn	7-1	6-1	7-1	11-2	7
Red Goard	7-1	8-1	6-1	7-1	7
Knowcash	61	9-1	81	8-1	1
Vest D'Acet	91	19-1	9-1	9-1	. 1
Classic Eagle	10-1	10-1	12-1	70-1	1
Papua	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12
Stadam	14-1	12-1	14-1	12-1	14
Straces Castle	9-1	12-1	12-1	14-1	Ę
Tissue Cf Lies	14-1	2-1	10-1	12-1	1
Denoing Peddy	14-1	16-1	18-1	14-1	14
Troancy	15-1	16-1	16-1	18-1	1
Shook	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20
Nordansk	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25
The Frenck F.	30 -1	25-1	201	20-1	3

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

ASCOT 2.40: STRONG PALADIN has taken time to get the hang of fences but now looks ready. most of Strong Gale's offspring, likes fast ground.

3.10: Kurakka looked top notch after a hat-trick at Towcester. Ascot and Sandown. but at Newbury his jumping looked suspect even before he fell COUNTRY BEAU is a safer bet. Jeff King's stable is in form and he acts on firm.

ing of Richard Dunwoody for Kinnescash looks significant.

RESULTS

NEWCASTLE Going: Rat: Good to Soft (Good in places) Jumps: Good (Good to Soft in places) 2.15: (5/ 2yo maiden stakes)

1. KINGSTON BRLL ___T Spr

Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3

C Cost, H William Hill, L Ladboles, S Stanley T Total

1. RYALIX B Harding 5-4 fav
2. Gits Cunninghem P Niven 12-1
3. High Pyreness A Maguirs 2-1
Also ram: 10-1 Simiet, 14-1 Indian Garmer
(4th), 20-1 Pursuivant, 25-1 Buckskin Boy,
33-1 Not Guilty, 40-1 Ruming Moss (6th),
100-1 foeire Dancer (5th), Pacific War.
11 ran. 7, 7k, 7, 3, 4 (Winner bay gelding
by Rivertead out of Kings De Lerne,
trained by M Hammond at Middleham for
(Pennine Yarn Dyeing Ltd), Totac 5200;
5120, 5150, 5120 DF: 51240, CSF: 51488.

1. TOM TUN. — T winners /-c ray
2. Unainstan — K. Fallon 8-1
3. Malhamila — J Culan 15-2
4. Silk Cottage — P Fessey 20-1
Also rain: 8-1 Multarrab, Young Bigwig
(sth), 9-1 Nitry Norman, 10-1 Mungo Park,
12-1 Gay Brezze (6th), 16-1 Gorstald, 20-1
Cartmel Park, Northern Svengel, 33-1 Grey
Kingdom, Rosels Treasure, Souperficial,
50-1 Sealed by Fatte
16 rain: ½, rik, ind, 1½, ½, (Winner bay geldling by Bold Arrangement out of B Grade,
trained by Miss J Crazze at York for

ing by Bold Arrangement out of B Grads, trained by Miss J Craze at York for Mrs O Tunstalli. Tota: £400; £10, £210, £200, £850 DF: £2100, CSF: £2564. Trioast: £196.11. Trilecta: £158.50. 3.55: (3m handicap chase)
1. PLAT TOP __C McCorm

1. PLAT TOP __ C McCormeck 10-11 fav
2. Westwer George ____ A Dobbin 5-1
3. Inch Way ____ R McGreth 12-1
Also ran: 9-2 Sumt Imp (9th), 5-1 Count
Karmuski (4th), 33-1 Cooperhunt (6th).
6 ran. 3/s, 77, 3, 7, dist. (Winner bay gelding by Blakeney out of New Edition, trained
by M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton for
Major M Watson), Total: \$180, \$150, \$220.
DF: \$440, CSF: \$580. 4.25: (7f meiden stakes) 1. LITTLE AMIN......

Serian 3, 2, 2, 9, Ind. (Winner bay cold by Untimeth out of Ghessanah, trained by J Bethell at Middleham for (Shelish America Dahlawi), Totte 2520, 2500, 2500, 2570, DF: \$470, CSF; \$3.27, NR: Precious Moments.

3.40: Flat-bred RED GUARD should appreciate this ground. He beat Premier Generation on good going at Sandown in ied for a spring campaign. Peter Bowen's vard has been in the doldrums but the book-

S.00: (2m fByds handicap)

1. OLD HUSH WING ___ A Culherte 4-1

2. Cuezon City __ Charmock 100-30 fav

3. Swiftvary ___ Dean McKeown 10-1

Also ran: 6-1 Give An Inch (4th), 7-1

Campaign (8th), 9-1 Cnder Hils. 12-1

Black ice Boy, 14-1 Bemutottheblue, Highfield Fizz, 20-1 Ranger Stoane (8th), 40-1

kephren. Rephren.
11 ran. 6, 1.5. 8, 11/4. (Winner bay gelding by 17rol out of Sameens, mined by Mrs M Reveley at Settburn for Mark Barrett Racing). Tothe £550; £140, £370. DF: £270. CSF: £1608. Theast: £13.70. Jackpot: £220490.
Placepot: £610. Quadpot: £380.

SANDOWN Gong: Good to Firm (Firm in places)
2.00: 1. DINES (J Tizzard) 2-7 tay: 2. Cincus Star 3-1: 3. Missed Call 2-7 tay: 2. Cincus Star 3-1: 3. Missed Call 25-1.3 ran.
1½, dat. (P Nichola, Shapton Maller). Tota:
1:30. DF: 1:00. CSF: 1:02
2.30: 1. BARMALE BOY (A Thornton) 7-1;
2. Irbae 1-3 tay: 3. Take Cover 20-1.4 ran.
4 dist. (T Casey, Upper Lambourn). Tota:
1:540. DF: 2:190. CSF: 19376.
3.05: 1. CARLISEE BANDITO'S (Mr. A
Michael) 11-4; 2. Count Melody 10-11 tay: 3.
Brass Of Mar 6-1. 6 nan. 2½-1, 18. (J Berry,
Cockerham). Tota: 23:00, 2:190. 2:150. DF:
22:20. CSF: 25:47. NF: Cabbery Rose, Sputington. Going: Good to Firm (Firm in places)

\$2.80. CSF: £547. NF: Calibery Rose, Sputington.
3.40: 1. LINTON ROCKS (J. Tizzard) 7-2;
2. Sharp Command 9-4 ke; 3. Vicesa 16-1
6 ran. 1. 4; P. Nichols, Shepton Maled, Tote:
£4.30: £180, £190. DF: £440. CSF: £125,
4.10: 1. DISTANT ECHO (J. Tizzard) 4-7 ke;
2. Xalpete 11-4; 3. Plunder Bay 4-1, 3 ran.
3½, 2. (P. Nichols, Shepton Maled). Tote:
£150. DF: £190. CSF: £238
4.45: 1. MARCHING MARQUIS (Mr.T. Gibnty) 4-1; 2. King Taxus 10-11 key, 3. Time
\$teel 13-2. 7 ran. (Gary Brown, Upper Lembourn). Rote: £480; £170, £140. DF: £320.
CSF: £734. NF: Ryton Run.
Placepot: £7690, Quadpot: £320.
Place 6: £3232. Place 5: £2405.

YTHE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS ASCOT 971 981 972 FOLKESTONE 973 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS

0891 261 970

THE GREAT truism about Na-

timate destination. Two years later, however,

Hawke almost reached the terminus that waits for us all. Back in the less celebrated forum of Newton Abbot, Hawke was brought down at the first flight of a worthless selling hurdle. His mount that day was called Beam Me Up Scotty and his rider was indeed almost t-insported to a different land.
The head injuries Hawke received immediately divorced him from the part of the sport he had known. It propelled him into the employment of training and, a week on Saturday, Hawke, at 33, will send Kendal

manding test horses in Britain

If the fates allow Hawke an-

found that out later.

drive a car for four years. That wrong time. "I spent a lot of time in hos-

this job anyway."

ASCOT

Course is near junction of A329 and A330. Access from M3 (Junc 3) and M4 (Junc

■ Course is near junction of A329 and A330. Access from M3 (Junc 3) and M4 (Junc 8). Railway station (service from London, Waterfoo) adjoins course. ADMISS(ON: Members 15 (17-25 year-olds half-price); Grandstand & Paddock £10; Silver Ring £5. CAR PARK: Nots 1, 2 & 3 £5, remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

■ LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 21-98 (219%), M Pipe 15-96 (17.4%), K Balley 13-65 (22.4%), J Gifford 13-103 (12.5%), N Twiston-Davises 12-88 (18.6%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 25-107 (26.2%), R Danwoody 21-124 (18.5%), N Williamson 15-85 (21.2%), M A Fitzgerald 18-145 (12.4%), A Maguitre 17-85 (20%), ■ EARCH/STITES: 134-349 (26.9%).

■ FAVOURITES: 194-28 (98.2%)
■ LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Chavaller Bayard (240) and Fils De Cresson (310)

2.05 ROYAL ASCOT CRICKET CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,648

6501 MCONSTINE BAY (19) Mas Timothy Pilinigury J Gifford 5 th 2 P Hide Gardington J Gifford 5 th 2 P Hide Gardington J Gifford 5 th 2 P Hide Gardington B 11 to P Hide Garding

18 IN QUESTION (18) (The Winning Line) Mass V Williams 5 11 12...

Alta at Sandown 19 days ago. Raised in trip and on a much fas

20-1 Bellando, 25-1 Brownings Boy, Calciment, 33-1 Philosophic 199: Just Np 5 11 5 J A McCarthy 20-1 (Mrs L Richards) 20 ran

PHILDSOPHIC (F48) (Gallegher Equine Ltd) Mrs L Jawell 5 11 2.

FORM GUIDE

The been the reason. Very easy winner at Ludlaw on good ground before. Up

Native Recruit: Dual Ludiow winner and then stiff task against Barton at Sendown.

Native Recruit: Dual Ludlow winner and then stiff task against Barton at Sandown. Talled off last time behind Lord Noelle at Wincarston. Stays well and has his ground Copper Coln: All runs in soft ground, beating Dragon Lord at Windoor before 2-length 2nd to the progressive Heart at Newbury. Up in distance and likely to go well on ground Asharan: Winner of two points but best watched on debut in a pacey race Bellearlo: Burnper winner last season but little chance on showings this term, lest time out finishing a distant 6th to Basman at Wincarston (2m) Brownings Bory: Has struggled in soft ground all season. Still big surprise if he wins still be a find in a distant distant of the progression of the structure (2m).

after latest pulled up effort behind Percy Parkeeper at Kempton (2m5f) Catchment: Hurdles newcomer and modest on the AW, finishing 7th to Quezon City

at Southwell (2m) after 3-length 2nd to Bigwig at Lingfield Philosophic: Winner on the Fiat and has Adrian Maguire booked for jumping debut.

VERDICT: Many will give in Question another chance on this better ground af-

the lapse in a highly competitive handcap in the soft at Sandown, He is tried over a longer trip, but one to beet him getting 55 is the progressive COPPER CON, who could take off now that he gets fast ground. He made hard work of whiring at Windsor but there was plenty to like about his latest showing against the well weighted likest in a Newtonia busidest in the Constitution of the latest and the latest and the latest showing against the well weighted

Heart in a Newbury handicap. Natilve Recult cannot be ignored now that he returns

2.40 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES NOVICE CHASE BBC2

ves, emerald green cap

Only 6th to Bigwig at Lingfield on latest start. Surprise if he collects

P30-2P CARDIAC ARREST (64) (David Zuffman) Miss H Knight 6 11 8....

royal blue, bage seams, royal blue cap P-0433 CHEVALIER BAYARD (26) (James R Adams) J Adam 8 11 8...

ncy Pake in hot hicao at Sandi

ine Bay: Folkestone winner in November and first run since when beating

4.15 Another Night

5.25 The Puffin Man

4.50 Shaarid

Rod Millman's yard.

NB: Gunner Sam (Catterick 4.25)

things. You've got to keep him a little bit fresh.

A further solid appointment window ledge when there is a Teeton Mill connections of 3.10 DAILY TELEGRAPH NOVICE H'CAP CHASE BBC2 3-THF NURAKKA 477 (CD) (Mrs M C Swedney) J GHord 6 TI 13 white, and disc, hooped cap -11US1 COUNTRY BEAU (S4) (D) (Ma J J Papping J King 7 11 1..... Bight blue, while stripe and arrives: 1-213 SUPPREME CHARM (60) (CD) (BF) (P J Vogi) K Balley 7 to 12.....

red, brown steaves, red armints, white cap BETTRIG: 11-4 File De Cresson, 180-36 Laredo, 7-2 Kurakka, Sopreme Charm, 7-1 Country Bei 1998: Hoh Werrior 7 11 10 G Bradley 10-1 (C Brooks) 8 ran

While, red sleenes, check co

pojel blue, white charron, hooped steeres, white cap LAREDO (16) (D) (Reding Thoroughbreds Ltd) P Nicholis 6 10 12....

white, dark green chewon and armitete, check cap SURSURI CORIOA (25) (D) (M Wisst-Thomas) H Dely 8 10 5 ___

FILS DE CRESSON (18) (James R Adams) J Adam 9 10 3.

FORM GUIDE

Kurakke: Big, strapping chaser who impressed at Ascot and Sandown before falling at Newbury in race won by Makouriji. Needs to cope with much faster ground Country Beau: Smart chaser and winner last time of week race at Wincanton. Allowed 12b for 46-length defeat by Kurakka at Sandown. Greatly suited by fast ground Supreme Charas: Hes won here 4 times over hundles. Chase wins at Ludlow (best Sursum Cords 5 lengths in Jenuary) and creditable 3rd to Moor Lane at Doncaster Laredo: in tine form on return since December, winning easily at Wincenton at Teurism Has won on good ground so leading chance off a lenient Iricap mark

File De Cresson: Two-mile winner at Catterick and Avr. the latest easily from Bangabun

VERDICT: Three wins on good ground and a bumper success on fast suggests this surface will not unduly trouble LAREDO, who is on a lenient mark after returning to action with two wits in a lowly league. Kuraida could be stretched with the weight on this fast surface and, while Country Beau's form is a bit suspect, he is sure to go close with the ground very much in his favour. Supreme Chann will like the surface and lines up fresher than most.

3.40 BRITISH KIDNEY PATIENT ASSOCIATION BBC2 rad, yellow apaulate ms.5 11 B. while, black steps, black cap -0400 VENT D'AOUT (13) (D) (Elle Rucing Club) M Pipe 5 11 2 ... while, large black spots, black cap 6 P-2420 PAPUA (43) (D) (BF) (Robert Hitchins) | Salding 5 11 1 ... purple, while sech and star on cap 51-425 TRUANCY (20) (D) (J E Funnell) S Woodman 6 10 7 .ed, yellow obseron, striped alseves, yellow cap -06214 RED GUARD (41) (0) (LA Hooper) J GRord 5 T0 7 P Hide wills, rescon seems, colle; calls and cap SISO41 SHADIANN (19) (Mchael Blackburn & John Brown) P Murphy 5 T0 6 JA McCarthy 78d, purple seems, purple cap, red ator 031145 SHOOFK (42) (7) (BF) (Seen Devine) S Dow & 10 6..... red, vellow stripe and steeves 13 4853H DANCING PADDY (23) (CD) (Bycheroe Rechol) K Curringhem-Brown 11 10 1 ... 8 Keby (5) emakeld green, black hallow box

14 -P6822 TISSUE OF LIES (USA) (18) (0) (The No Hassie Partnership) J Akshursi 6 10 1 ... L Wyer

meuve, rojal blue hoops, cliabolo on sleeves, emenald green cap 4-PMI BABA AU RHANK (7) (9) (HTC Partnership) I Williams 7 10 0 (4ed, white, emenald green clies, emenald green and yellow hooped sleeves and cap —15 declared — - 15 Sectioned
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicep weight: Seize Au Rum 9st 128c.
BETTING: 5-1 Beize Au Rhure, 7-1 Klonescast, Tyroleen Dreem, Red Guerd, 19-1 Vent D'Acut, Classic Engle, Stmona Castle, Tiestoe Of Lies, 14-1 Pepus, Shedisre, Descing Paddy, 16-1 others
1996: Morrante Forte 8 10 10 B Powell 5-1 law (J Adam) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE The French Fuzze: Ex-Martin trained and very still task at weights even with the ground to his Bring (Thin is County Hurdle less time)

Tyroleen Dream: Chapstow and Wetherby winner in October (Sto higher). Good show-

hytogen bream; Creispay and Vertrary winter in Counter pay, and counter in ing under 12st at Doncaster last time when 5th to Ginger Fox. Stable out of form Simons Castle: All wins in soft ground. 2th lower than when 6th to Polar Prospect in William Hill Hurdle at Sandown in December. Kinnescastic Hardle at Sandown in December. Kinnescastic Hardle at Sandown in December. Cautier (winner since) at Aintee and just 1th higher. Stiff task against Ricardo and Perfect Venue at Newbury last time Vent D'Aost: Won small race under 12st at Burston and stiff tasks since at Newbury and Castle blacks of the pay 13th). All wise on soft control. and County Hurdle (deimer ridden and 19th). All who on soft ground Papua: Only 7th to Fatehalichair at Sedgefield after other disappointing runs. Faster ground to suit but not one to trust

Classic Eagle: Fakenham winner on fast ground last season. Titled blinkered (left off today) lest time when creditable 4th to Ginger Fox at Doncaster
Trusney: Kempton and Warwisk Winner on testish ground and back on more suitable surface after latest creditable 5th to Kinds Cross at Wincarton. Fine chance
Red Gazerd: Reised tilb for Sardown win from Premier Generation on good ground. Well beaten in a novice there next time by Ashley Park
Shadlent: All three wins gained over 2m3l at Hereford, the latest by 8 lengths from Tramendisto, Likely to find trip and ground against him

Transmisso. Likely to find trip and ground against him Shooffic Beaten long way lest time when 5th to Hot in Seucy at Follestone (two wins there previously). Stiff task on this ground after all what on heavy Nordansic: Latest four wins notiched in the mud so unlikely to be good enough in such a tough receight of 11 to Matchiavell at Fortwell last time) Dancing Paddy: Very well handleapped and beng in form after win from Tissue Of Les at Fortwell (same terms). Good chance with competent 5th claimer aboard Tissue Of Liest Modest 2nd to Suranom at Plumpton after 2-length 2nd to Dancing Paddy.

Paddy at Fortwell. Same weights have but taster ground will suit
Babs Au Fitum: Decent Fist handcapper and reliated taster surface to win twice
at Ludow (stest by 1 length from Duello). Stronger race today but fine chance VERDICT: The ground has come right for TRUANCY, the mount of Norman smack in his favour, while Danoling Paddy returned to form at Pontwell and he re-mains very well handcapped. Vent D'Asut did little in the County Hurdle but this is

4.15 GREAT ORMOND ST HOSPITAL CHILDRENS CHARITY

Ш	<u></u>	HANDICAP HURDLE (C) £7,000 added 3m	25,198
1	21-133	GREEN CRUSADER (11) (D) (Ms R Key & Ms V Ward) Ms V Ward	8 11 10_R Thom
2	65435F	AFAPIKA (47) (D) (D Branner Accountants Synd) B Paling 6 11 5	T J Murpi
8		BRIGHT FLAME (14) (Colchestour Recing List) Miss S Edwards 7 ft	
4		GALATASORI JANE (320) (D) (BF) (B), Blinmen) P Nichols 9 ti 3.	
5		BE MY MOT (85) (D) (8F) (R Winchester & Sort) D Grissel 7 ft. 1	
6		FAR DAWN (USA) (19) (Peter Wingerst) Mrs A Petrot 6 ti 0	
7		BALANAK (USA) (11) (Excre of the late Mr W H Done) D Gandolio 8	
8		CAPTAIN JACK (112) (D) (Clive D Smith) M Pipe 9 10 7	
8		WONTCOSTOLOTBUT (7) (Wontcostalo) Parinerahipi M Wildreson 5	
10		EQUITY'S DARLING (71) (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 7 to 1	
1		ANOTHER MIGHT (7) (Sureet Partnership) P Murphy 5 10 0	
12		HONEY MOUNT (111) (D) (Paul Green) R Ainer 8 10 0	
13		QUEEN'S REDE (25) (J H Day) H Day 6 10 6	
	***	والأوال المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع	I Diesi

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Another Might 9st 13th, Honey Mount 9st 17th, Queen's nous ser iver, seem on the BETTINGS: 5-1 Equity's Darling, 6-1 Green Crusader, 7-4 Bellanak, 8-1 Se My Mot, Honey Mount, Balirol, 10-1 Captain Jack, Wontcostatiothat, Another Night, Queen's Filde, 12-1 others 1998: Supreme Cheme 6 10 13 N Willemson 9-2 fav (K Balley) 17 ran

red, brown aleeves, red somists, while cap emerald green and maroon (quantered), halved elseves, et 4223 IMAD (USA) (19) (Alan Brackley) K Comariord 9 11 8 black and red districts, ned and white haised stewers, white cap 1,0042 Ser EDGAR (S4) (Feb. Resensible Widow & Son) J Gifford 8 11 8...... beige, black hollow box and armies, quartered cap PMFP3 ROMAL RAVEN (12) (C) (A D Weller) J Gifford 8 11 8...... yellow, white cross of formine, aboves and cap 304F22 SEE ENOUGH (18) (D) (J A G Meaden) R Budder 11 11 8 green, red and gold hooped cap 2 (PF44 SWEET LORD (33) (I S Networking Schritors List) J Okt 8 11 8..... SWEET LATTU JOS I A TREASMANT WHILE ITAINOUS SERVER, pirk cap
FIRS-4 UP THE COUNTRY (12) (D) (Sufferent United) R Curte 7 11 8

> BETTING: 4-1 Strong Peladin, 5-1 Strong Vasion, Partedet V, 6-1 Femfont, 8-1 Issaid, See Enough, 90-1 Mr. Edgar, 12-1 Cerdiac Arrest, Sweet Law (K, Hally) 13 ran FORM GUIDE

Circles Arrest: Gurgled at Leicesser on latest start when stiff tests against Melcouni.

Decent earlier showing when 2nd to Thatido at Stratford. Fester ground may help
Decent earlier showing when 2nd to Thatido at Stratford. Fester ground may help
Cherafter Bayyard: Wants this longer trip after thirds to Boyzontoows at Catterick
Cherafter Bayyard: Wants this longer trip after thirds to Boyzontoows at Catterick
and Dragons Bay at Doncaster. Travelling comparison of Fis De Cresson (runs 330)
Cliegatore Lack Modest offorts in Sandown handcaps of late, finishing a well besting 3rd to County Cherafter. wayshore Lact: Modect offorts in Sandown raindicaps or size, misering a weal beet-en and to Country Store last time. Hard to faintly Familiona: Ex-Prench trained and 9-length 2nd to Lindents Lotto at Cheltenharm on New Year's day Yards horses run well fresh but stablemate Strong Vision preferred. New Year's day Yards horses run well fresh but stablemate Strong Vision preferred. Farfadet V: Now show in Cheltenharm hundle won by Kheyraweni on first start since distant chase and to Ocoon Hawk at Wordester. Fair for Festival 4-miler last session hands Substantial to the chase in hofests followed 2nd to Salmon Breaze over fences one hundlos winner before 6-length 2nd to Salmon Breeze over fences

there. Reversed to hurdles wither before 0-length 200 to seament creaze over tenders there. Reversed to hurdles loss time (3cd to Equity's Darling). Puns only if rain there. Reversed to hurdles loss time (3cd to Equity's Darling). Puns only if rain the Edger: Hurdles wither on fast ground so thely to go well after fair showing at the Edger: Hurdles wither on fast ground so they to go well after fair showing at Folkestone and 18-length 2nd to Tiraldo at Hurtlingdon. Up in trip today Royal Rawers: Improved run to finish close up 3rd to Morstre at Folkestone (3m2) Royal Rawers: Improved run to finish close up 3rd to Morstre at Folkestone (3m2) but striller task today and Mr Edgar rases the stables main fency but striller task today and Mr Edgar rases the stables main fency See Enought Creditable recent efforts at Chepstow against Belly Lina (beaten head) and Ottowa Wins only when ground is testing so hard to tency on this surface and Ottowa Wins only when ground is testing so hard to tency on this surface. ladin: Placed in strong races behind Kurabka here and King's Sanker at and Ottong Wins only when ground and stable had winner at Sandown yesterday.
Kempton, Prefers this toster ground and stable had winner at Sandown yesterday.
Kempton, Prefers this toster ground and stable had winner at Sandown yesterday.
Kempton, Prefers this toster ground and stable had winner at Sandown yesterday.
Strong Vision: 12-length 2nd to Spanfang Cone lest season. Hung on heavy ground at Lincester last time when head-2nd to Romancer. Sure to go well on feather ground at Lincester last time when head-2nd to Romancer. But to King's Banker at Kemp
The Country: Wenning pointer and better for race when 4th to Montroe at Folia
The Country: Wenning pointer and better for race when 4th to Montroe at Folia
To The Country: Wenning pointer and better for race when 4th to Montroe at Folia
To The Country: Wenning pointer and better for race when 4th to Montroe at Folia
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The Country: Wenning pointer and better for race when 4th to Montroe at Folia
The Country: Wenning pointer and better for race when 4th to Montroe at Folia-

VERDICT: Kim Basiey won this race last year and Strong Vision looks better than VERDICT: Kim Basiey won this race last year and Strong Vision looks better than stablemese Famifoni. He can improve and his latest second at Leicaster was on tertiablemese Famifoni. He can improve and his latest second at Leicaster was on tertiablemese Famifoni. He can improve much Patient houses to have a chance checklish and a chance. CHEVALIER BAYARD travels down with the tancied File Decitions with a chance. CHEVALIER BAYARD travels down with the tancied File Decitions with a chance. Casson (runs in 310) and could spring a surprise with the longer trip sure to suit.

Brown's

in check

ifier at Celtic Park.

Scottish attack.

announce his line-up for the

game against the Group Nine

leaders and 1996 finalists until

the last possible moment. But

a glance at the list from which

he will choose would leave

Jozef Chovanec in no doubt as

pearance since sustaining the

even one obvious marksman

when he noted that he is the top

scorer among the 20-man

squad. His 56 caps have pro-

duced a grand total of five goals

- including two from penalties

and two against what he self-

mockingly called "the mighty

much of his career, will be

pressed into service as a for-

ward, having at least played there for Aberdeen lately.

Should Brown revert to his

trusted 3-5-2 formation, rather

than the riskier 3-4-3 which

earned narrow home wins over

Estonia and the Faroe Islands,

less's probable partner is

nally a winger, with a strong

Eoin Jess, a midfielder for

plans kept

Return of the wizard for Scotland

Allan Johnston is set to help his country back to the good old days against the Czechs tonight. By Phil Shaw

SMALL, WELL balanced, with a low centre of gravity, quick feet and an innate impudence which meant he delighted in turning defenders dizzy before flighting his cross, the winger was once as integral to Scottish football culture as the tartan tammie, the half-time pie and the Old Firm being kept apart in semi-final draws.

From Charlie Cooke and Jimmy Johnstone through John Robertson and Davie Cooper to Gordon Strachan and Pat Nevin, touchline trickery was a major weapon in the national team's armoury. Then the era of wing-backs and wide midfielders kicked in. The specialist winger first became a luxury, then an endangered species.

Just when the triumph of functionalism over flair on Scotland's flanks appeared complete. Allan Johnston iinked into view at Sunderland. The 25year-old with the classic winger's frame - he stands 5ft 7in and 9st 7lb - added a "new" dimension to the attack when introduced against Estonia and the Faroe Islands last autumn. Johnston's impact was such

that he looks certain to be asked to insinuate himself round the back of the Czech Republic's defence when the quest to qualify for Euro 2000 resumes tonight. Since Craig urging him not to forget his Brown's squad contains another winger in Rangers' Neil McCann there is the nostalgic Johnston having been one of prospect of the Scots using the full width of Celtic Park as they strive to enhance a modest scoring record against the impressed by a first-hand Group Nine favourites and Euro 96 finalists.

A Glaswegian, Johnston might have felt more at home at Ibrox had Saturday's match Brown. "He plays on the left for

Rangers (when he was not watching his brother, Sammy, who played for St Johnstone and is now assistant manager of Partick Thistle). On his last appearance there, with Heart of Midlothian early in 1996, he achieved the considerable feat of putting a hat-trick past Andy

Peter Reid was present that day and kept tabs on him the following season, which Johnston spent with Rennes in France following one of the first "Bosman" transfers involving a Scot. When, after a year of fluctuating fortunes, he decided to return to Britain, the Sunderland manager landed him for a bargain £500,000.

At Hearts, Johnston was nicknamed "Sticky"; some say it was because there was nothing of him, like a stick insect, others that it came from his adhesive touch on the ball. At Sunderland, where he has forged a strong link with the left-back Michael Gray, the fans have dubbed him "Magic". The moniker may lack originality but seems appropriate given his capacity to conjure a cross when apparently boxed in by

Reid felt it was a quality of which Scotland should avail themselves and phoned Brown, player. The Scotland manager was aware of his capabilities, several Hearts players who made the Under-21 side, though he was sufficiently appraisal to pick him for the senior pool

"Allan did very well for us in his first two games," said

poned. He grew up following there with the likes of Neil Mc Cann, Callum Davidson and Stephen Glass, so we used him on the right. The pleasing thing is that he's good with both feet and happy to play either side.

"He doesn't go past people with pace - he's not going to embarrass a full-back for speed like Willie Henderson used tobut he uses his skill to create space in front of defenders and makes a very good angle to cross the ball. It's no coincidence that Niall Quinn is getting so many goals for Sunderland this season. We haven't got any big strikers like that, but we do have guys who support well from midfield and get goals, such as Craig

"Allan's ability to cross from tight positions reminds me of players like Charlie Cooke and Eddie Gray. He's something of a throwback in that respect. He has terrific skill and can beat a man with clever footwork, and he's also got a nice step-over trick, excellent delivery and a good game-awareness, which is vital at international level."

Scotland have grown accustomed to visiting sides, from the makeweights like the Faroese to teams from the other end of Fifa's world rankings, massing behind the ball and then countering quickly. "They defy you to break them down," Brown explained. "So you need somebody like Johnston or McCann. or possibly both, to get in behind

Brown cites the Netherlands as an example of a country who favour out-and-out wingers. Yet he fears they are a dying breed, despite the emergence of Johnston, McCann and Glass (absent injured at Newcastle). "With 4-4-2, the wide men tend



Players just don't get to the byline like they used to.

"Club managers can buy wingers, like Rangers did with McCann and Andrei Kanchelskis and Celtic did with Jackie McNamara and Regi Blinker, but I can't do that. Even in England, there are very few on the

He speaks from experience,

stop each other going forward. having made regular crossborder incursions to check on players (his most recent visit, for his sins, Brown was to Queen's Park Rangers versus Swindon). A recent trip to Sunderland, whom he saw close in on the Premiership by beating Norwich, satisfied him that

the other week.

BY DAVID ANDERSON

Tistemitanu is injured.

Ferguson, Mark Burchill, Christian Dailly and maybe Paul Ritchie as the nucleus of our future team. If we can just get past this transitional period without failing to qualify, I'm sure there's a really good side in the

cracking goals against Bolton Rangers' Neil McCann, nomi-"I see players like Johnston. hint that another flank spe-McCann, Glass, Davidson, Barry

cialist, Sunderland's Allan Johnston, will be summoned from the bench at some stage. By comparison with the front and back units, from which such familiar figures as Durie, Gallacher, Dailly and Hendry

are missing, the Scots are spoiled for choice in midfield. Yet McAllister played down the theory that the match would be won or lost there. "I'm confident but there are goals in this squad tre-backs marauding at setpieces as alternative sources. .

Given that their opponents stand some 20 places above them at seventh in the world rankings published by Fifa, the game's global governing body, it would not surprise many observers if this were to prove to be a game too far for Brown's make-do-or-die philosophy. Yet Scotland have not lost a qualifying fixture on home soil since Mark Lawrenson's goal settled a 1987 match in the Republic of Ireland's favour, and there is a steely determination

to keep the run going. "It's a game we have to wm," McAllister said, mindful that the Czechs would go eight points clear by winning. "Though a draw wouldn't be a disaster, it would make it very difficult because we'd have to win in Prague. Some of their players

IN THE most searching exam- BY PHIL SHAW in Glasgow ination so far of Craig Brown's

legendary powers of improviof Euro 96 but, while we respect sation, Scotland will tonight them, we're not in awe of them." attempt to extend their 12-year McAllister added: "We've unbeaten home record in competitive fixtures without a singlet to start fast. A slow pace would suit them better than us. de recognised striker when so we need to try to play at a hey receive the Czech Repub-British tempo, like we did when lic in a potentially decisive we beat Austria at Celtic Park European Championship qualin the World Cup, though we also played some nice stuff The Scotland manager, that night." intent on keeping his Czech counterpart guessing, will not

Karel Poborsky, the Czechs former Manchester United winger, expressed a similar view on arriving at Glasgow airport: "If we get a good start and keep it tight, Scotland might get nervous. All the pressure's on them because they're at home and they're five points behind us."

to the makeshift nature of the Poborsky's failure to establish himself at Old Trafford. Gary McAllister, who will like Patrik Berger's status as a "bit-part player" at Liverpool. captain Scotland on his first apwas cited by McAllister as knee injury which kept out of last summer's World Cup finals, evidence that victory is not beyond Scotland's capabilities. summed up Brown's lack of Indeed, when looked at from

different perspective, the Czechs appear far from invincible. They failed to qualify for France 98, surrendered tamely to England in an autumn friendly at Wembley, and needed an "unsporting". Arsenalstyle goal to scrape through in the Faroes. They will also be

GROUP NINE

suspended Tomas Repka, although that still leaves with Scots with fewer than half the aggregate number of caps collected by their visitors.

Brown, who watched Chovanec's team labour to a 2-0 it'll be decided by our strikers, _home win over Lithuania or Saturday, would dearly like to anyway," he said, going on to know whether the first-choice identify Craig Burley and cen-striker, Vladimir Smicer, will be partnered by the the nippier Pavel Kuka or the taller Vratislav Lokvenc. In the absence of such intelligence, he has plans for either contingency and has even rehearsed two different playing systems. If Scotland's proud record is taken, it will not be for want of meticu-

lous preparation. SCOTLAND (3-5-2; probable): Sullivar (Wimbleden); Wiel's (Exercon), Effect (Leocar), Francis (Celici; Hopkin (Leota); Burley (Celici; Hopkin (Leota); Burley (Celici; McAllester (Coventry), Lamber (Celici; Davidson (Backburn); Jess (Abertieen), McCann (Rangers), Cotton (Republic (3-5-2, probable); Smilczek (Sheffield Wednesdny); Hoyanak (Sparcak); Separak (Sparcak)

■ Uefa, football's European governing body, says it will be forced to expel from the European Championship any country subjected to a UN embargo. "Our actions depend on the political situation which is beyond

What's important about April 6th?

From April 6th, there will be a new way to save money tax-free. It's called an ISA (Individual Savings Account) and you'll be able to start one with as little as £10. For a free leaflet cell 0645 000 404.

> A: The answer is an 😥

Dowie aiming for record goal

IAIN DOWIE has an extra incentive to find the back of the net in Moldova today. If he scores, the Queen's Park Rangers striker will equal Colin Clarke's Northern Ireland

Johnston's magic is in good

working order: "He played very .

well, and I gather he scored two

record of 13 goals. Dowie took his tally to 12, level with four others, when he scored against Moldova at Windsor Park in November's 2-2 draw. "It would mean a lot to me to equal the record because I love playing for Northern Ireland," the 34-year-old said. "But I would swap it for a place in the European Championship finals." Keith Gillespie should start,

even though he is not fully fit, and Michael Hughes will play his penultimate match before a hernia operation. Danny Sonner may make his first start in midfield, with Keith Rowland mov-

Tistemitanu is injureu.
NORTHERNI IRELAND (Probable): Taylor (Fulham): Rowland (Queen's Park
Rangers), Patterson (Durdee Uto), Morrow (Arsenal), Milliams (Chesterfield),
Sonner (Sheffield Wednesday). Lennon
(Leioester), Lomas (West Ham), Gillespie
(Blackburn), M. Hughes (Wimbledon).
Dowle (Queen's Park Rangers). GROUP THREE

The Moldovans have selec-

tion problems, with the de-

fenders Ivan Tabanov and Oleg

Shiskin suspended, while Ion

many v Morborn Ireland, 4 James Ger-many v Moldova. 5 James Finland v Tork-y. 9 James Moldova v Finland. 4 Sept. Finland v Germany. Northern Ireland v Turkey. 8 Sept: Germany v Northern Ire-land; Moldova v Turkey. 9 Oct. Germany 1 July 1

Wales winning over sceptics

THE PENALTY for prolonged disappointment was spelt out in the men's magazine Maxim last week when it revealed that half of Welsh football fans would prefer a Great Britain team to supporting the national team. Nowhere better has the effect been quantified of failing to reach major finals.

It is more than 40 years since Wales last went head to head with the world's, or even Europe's, best, which has eroded national allegiance to the point where 50 per cent would rather get behind Tony Adams and co (with Ryan Giggs as the sole Welsh representative) than endure much more of the present.

Compare that to the Scots, who were most opposed with 74.4 per cent against, Northern Ireland (66.7) and England (65.6) and, even given the vagaries of poll results, you get an idea how important a good result is in tonight's European Championship Group One qualifier against

Do well in Zurich - and a draw is the minimum requirement - and principality patriotism will prosper; do badly and the temptation to find another outlet for international pride BY GUY HODGSON

match for Bobby Gould and his players tonight, then? Actually, the Wales manager

has looked anything but worried this last week because he has survived far worse. Six months ago Gould's job prospects looked less than promising when even the Manic Street Preachers were interrupting

...3 0 1 2 2 4 1

Flutures: Today: Switzerland v Wales: Italy v Belarus. 5 Jame: Italy v Wales; Denmark v Belarus. 9 June: Switzerland v Italy: Wales v Denmark. 4 Sept: Belanus v Wales. Denmark v Switzerland. 8 Sept: Switzer-land v Belanus: Italy v Denmark. 9 Occ

their concerts to urge his dismissal but victories over Denmark and Belarus last October radically altered the position.

"My head was in a noose and tightening," Gould said, "then we won two games and the atmosphere and situation has changed. Now we have to address the change and

pressure that comes from creating a situation of greatest expectation.

"I recall Graham Henry [Wales' rugby union coach] was in a similar situation after two bad results this season against Ireland and Scotland. People were getting on at him, but then Wales go to Paris and produce a wonderful performance and a wonderful victory. The emotion that was shown on and off the field was fantastic."

Gould's squad is at its most harmonious since he took over three years ago, although it has not always been that way thanks to public wrangles with John Hartson, Gary Speed, Robbie Savage and Ian Rush That has been brushed aside

by success since as Hartson, back in the fold after nine months' absence, confirmed. The players look forward to joining up with the squad," he said, "and, no disrespect to anyone, it wasn't always like that. Results change things. If you're getting stuffed the manager comes in and wants to know what's going wrong, what are we doing wrong? If you win games you don't have meetings like

that. The lads here have had

days off, played golf and everything is going well. Everybody is flying."

Everyone, that is, excep-Giggs, who is Wales' only worldclass player and who misses tonight's match with a hamstring injury incurred playing for Manchester United in the European Cup. His absence against the Swiss, who beat Belarus on Saturday, could be hurtful although, in Wales' favour, their last two wins were without him.

Even so, when Gould followed an item on cloning on Radio Four's Today yesterday, he could not resist asking for a Giggs clone as the perfect present, underlining how important is his pace and the fear he instills in the opposition.

But, as Gould said yesterday, you can only work with what you have got and the biggest weapon at his disposal is renewed confidence. "We have won two games back to back," he said, "the squad have been away, looked at the group table and come back for this game in a very positive mood believing they can really achieve something.

Now if he can only convince the Welsh public.

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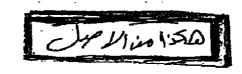
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Now Wasps decide smaller is better THIS DOWNSIZING lark appears to be catching on. Wasps, the workaholic London club who go into this weekend's Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final with Gloucester at Loftus Road as tournament favourites, are the latest Premiership outfit to decide that the only way to grow ger is to get smaller. Eight time professionals can expect to feel the cold wind of reection at the end of the season, leaving Nigel Melville and com-

RUGBY UNION

By CHRIS HEWETT

The more cynical observer will point out that with Lawrence Dallaglio coining a reported £200,000 a year under the terms of his new 24-month contract - regardless of whether that figure is remotely accurate, the England captain will not be playing for peanuts - Wasps might find it difficult to adhere

alone the £1.5m proposal currently being kicked around the rugby boardrooms of England.

Indeed, the 1997 national champions have reduced further their supply of the folding stuff by agreeing an extended two-year deal with Kenny Logan, their Scottish international wing.

fident of cementing their place among the English élite, especially now that the fruits of a pany with a reduced squad of 26. to a salary cap of any sort, let £4.5m parent company share

"We're beginning to build the kind of supporter base we

need to carry the project through and establish ourselves as one of the strong clubs, both here and in Europe," said Melville, their director of rugby, yesterday.

"London clubs are different to big-town clubs elsewhere, simply because there is so much Premiership activity in and around the capital. London's rugby public is a floating

"The fact that we're averaging over 8,000 a game at Loftus Road suggests we're providing the right sort of product on the field."

Wasps' London rivals, Saracens, also felt they had their "product" right after going close to a league and cup double last season, but their failure to continue in the same vein has led to a serious player cull at Vicarage Road. Chronic cash-

Richmond, another ambitious capital outfit, to wield the axe even more brutally.

"Like many others, we have some tough decisions to make." admitted Melville, "but the fact that we'll have to cut back on the squad numbers means that people are desperate to play for their places. The strong survive in these circumstances."

Peter Scrivener, the quietly effective No 8 whose recent performances have been central to

Wasps' late-season purple ius Hurter, who suffered a patch, will definitely miss the Gloucester outing on Sunday because of concussion.

Melville, who names his side today, will consider moving Joe Worsley from the open-side row and recalling Paul Volley to the breakaway position.

Newcastle, who face Richmond at the Madejski Stadium in Saturday's semi-final, may well travel south without their former Springbok prop, Mar-

neck injury during the Falcons' 57-16 thumping at Northampton four days ago. Ian Peel definitely deputises for the big Northern Transvaaler in tonight's Premiership match flank to the middle of the back with London Scottish and will almost certainly continue there if Hurter is ruled out of the cup match.

Richard Metcalfe is to undergo a back operation and will miss the remainder of Northampton's season.

Leicester ticket inquiry delayed

LEICESTER CITY say it could be a instright before they name any guilty parties in the Worthington BY JOHN CURTIS Cup final ticket row.

The club are investigating taims into alleged illegal ticketing which caused segregation problems and led to violence in the first half at Wembley. Trouble flared up behind the goal at the Wembley tunnel end, which was reserved for Leicester fans.

One Leicester director, Phil Smith, has admitted he sold 42 match tickets to players and officials of Padbury United, where he is club president. But he has

Leicester's commercial director Charles Rayner said in a land centre-half was back in statement "Leicester City FC is continuing its investigations with Wembley into ticket sales for the Worthington Cup final. We will not be releasing any information regarding this issue until the investigation has been completed, which could take up to another two weeks."

Tony Adams faces a rigorous fitness test today to determine ignored calls from supporters' the extent of his participation in the crucial eight-day pro-

Schmeichel 'will be leaving' say United

sterday that their goalkeeper, Peter Schmeichel, would definitely leave the club in May. Schmeichel announced his decision to quit English football last November but a recent run of good form had prompted speculation that United might try to persuade the Dane to change his mind.

"Peter Schmeichel is leaving at the end of the season. He's announced his retirement from club coach, Hector Cuper. football in England and is going to play abroad. That hasn't changed," the club's chief executive. Martin Edwards, said.

Edwards added that most of the United squad were on long-

ANCHESTER UNITED said Keane, who has one more year to go after this season ends.

The negotiations with him, contrary to what you may have read in the papers, haven't even started yet," Edwards

Mallorca's Argentinian goalkeeper, Carlos Roa, who was being touted as a possible replacement for Schmeichel, is considering retiring at the end of the season, according to his

Cuper, quoted in yesterday's Spanish sports daily Marca. said that the 29-year-old might retire in June, although he insisted that no decision had yet been taken. "He's going to term contracts, the exception make a final decision at the end being the club captain, Roy of the season," Cuper said.

gramme which could decide the destiny of the Premiership champious' bid to repeat their eague and FA Cup Double.

The Arsenal captain and Englight training yesterday after withdrawing from England's game against Poland with a recurrence of back and ankle problems. The big test comes today when his manager Arsène Wenger weighs up the chances of Adams facing Southampton at The Dell on Saturday, Blackburn at Highbury on Tuesday and Manchester United in the FA Cup the following Sunday.

Craig Moore's projected swift. return to Rangers is nearing completion, with the player eager to rejoin the chib he left earlier this season.

The Australian international defender departed for Crystal Palace for £800,000 in October after he rejected a new Ibrox deal. Rangers' manager Dick Advocaat was disappointed at losing the player and now, with Palace's financial problems, is poised to welcome Moore back. Talks are ongoing with the player's agent with a view to agreeing a four-year deal. A group of Nigerian prosti-

tutes has threatened nude protests at World Youth Cup matches after being barred from hotels by tournament organisers. Charity Emeyon of the Association of Practising Prostitutes of Nigeria said that hundreds of women would march naked through the streets if authorities did not bow to their demand to be able to operate freely.



Oxford University (right) race against their reserve crew, Isis, yesterday in preparation for Saturday's Boat Race

Gretzky adds another record to his list

WAYNE GRETZKY passed another milestone on Monday night when the 1,072nd goal of his career made him the alltime leading scorer in the history of the sport.

Already the holder of virtually every NHL single-season and career scoring record, Gretzky, 38, had been stuck on Association. 1.071 since 4 February, missing . 12 games due to a neck injury. Rangers a 3-1 victory over their

closest rivals, the New York

Islanders. The goal took him past his boyhood idol Gordie Howe. The record includes regular-season and play-off games in the NHL and the defunct World Hockey

When Gretzky broke Howe's 12 games due to a neck injury. NHL career goal-scoring mark, His goal gave the New York Gretzky complained that his WHA goals should have been

included in the record. Now Gretzky is the undoubted No 1 by any measure - except possibly his own.

"It's a goal I will never forget," Gretzky said. "Gordie Howe is the greatest player who ever played this game. It's such an honour to break the record of a man of his stature."

The win was also notable for the Rangers, who completed their first season sweep of their biggest rivals since

1972-73, the Isles' first year in the NHL Rangers' leading scorer,

Czerkawski of the Islanders traded second-period goals. leaving the teams deadlocked heading into the third period.

With less than three minutes remaining, Gretzky skated in and tapped his own rebound past goaltender Wade Flaherty for an unassisted goal that took

"It was kind of a garbage goal," he said. "More important, it was a big goal for us. It came Adam Graves, and Mariusz at a time when the team really needed a win, and I was ecstatic.

John MacLean added an empty-netter with 43 seconds left to seal the win as the Rangers, fourth of five in the Atlantic Division, climbed to within five points of Boston for the final play-off place in the Eastern Conference.

November date for Lewis-Holyfield bout

LENNOX LEWIS may have to wait until November for a beavveright title rematch with Evander Holyfield, according to Panos Eliades.

"Evander's signed up with Don King and Don is talking to me about doing a rematch possibly as late as November of this year," he said on BBC radio. The site is possibly Las Vegas," he added.

Everybody wants the fight. 1 re had offers from Saudi Arabia. I've had offers from South Africa. But Las Vegas is the one that really wants the fight and they are pushing the price sky high. King also wants to keep it in America," Eliades said. He also said he was prepared to be the main promoter of the fight.

The first fight between Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, and Holyfield, the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation champion, was widely derided, with most observers concluding that the Briton had outpointed the American.

BOXING

King has since publicly backed Lewis to win the rethe British fighter's promoter, match with Holyfield and become the first British fighter to unify the world heavyweight title this century.

King said: "Lennox Lewis will get justice in the rematch. He is a tenacious, determined young man and he will make sure that justice is done. Adversity brings these things out of great fighters, and the draw is the best thing that could have happened to Lewis to lift him from mediocrity to excellence.

Speaking on ITV's An Audience with Lennox Lewis to be broadcast next Saturday King admitted only a Lewis victory will settle the furore bubbling up on both sides of the Atlantic since the draw was announced. "If Lennox can do it just a little bit better next time he can put the title in the throw. He has a right to claim the title for his own and make the whole world happy," added King.

SPORTING DIGEST BADMINTON

The former England champion, Ray Stevens, was yesterday named coach of the national team, following Elfiot Stuart's resignation. Stevens has been given a three-month contract, to cover the Surdiman Cup world mbed team championships, and the world individual championships at Copenhagen in May.

BASKETBALL Edinburgh Rocks have re-ap-pointed their coach, Jim Brandon, for another year following the club's promising debut campaign in the Budweiser League.

The Manchester Giants coach, Nick Nurse, has been banned for two games and fined £300 for verbally abusing officials after his side's de-feat at Sheffield Sharks on 19 NBA: Indiana 82 Atlanta 83; Dallas

101 Seattle 109; Denver 100 LA Clip-pers 88; LA Lakers 116 Vancouver 98. BOWLS

BOWLS
GREENALLS SPRING WATERLOO
(Blackpool) second round: N Dean
(Altrincham) bt F Taylor (Lymm)
21-7; G Soiler (Altrincham) bt D
Richardson (Wigan) 21-20; F Grundy
(Orrell) bt N Crocken (Bury) 21-7; D
Leigh (Altrincham) bt K Woolham
(Urmston) 21-19; A Broadhurst
(Wigan) bt P Cousins (Pudsey) 21-8;
D Barlow (Altrincham) bt M Alman
(Pudsey) 21-18; C Morrison (Sale) bt
D Wright (Broadheath) 21-12; P Kelsall (Timperley) bt W Tuson (Astley)
21-11.

BOXING FBI agents have discovered human bones in the yard of a New Jersey home during their search for a missing Russian boxer. Sergei Kobozev, a former member of the Soviet national boxing team who emigrated to the United States in 1991, went missing in November

CYCLING . The French cyclist, Richard Virenque, has been charged by a magistrate with breaking his country's anti-doping laws. The 28-year-old lead rider, a member of last season's disgraced Festi-

SPEEDWAY ly using and administering dop-ing products and complicity to import, hold, transfer, supply and acquire poisonous and pro-hibited substances. Virenque, who now rides for the Italian Polti team, has persistently denied SWIMMING

FOOTBALL MATIONNIDE LEAGUE: Re-arranged flature: Fri 23 Apr. Bury v Bolton (from 24 Apr.). Change to kick-off time: Fri 2 Apr. Colchester v Preston: 7.45 (from 3.0).

ever taking banned substances.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: NY Rangers 3 NY Islanders 1; Vancouver 1 Phoenix 0.

MARATHON

Morocco's Khalid Khannouchi has been forced to withdraw from this year's London race on 18 April be-cause of an Achilles injury. How-ever, Tegla Loroupe of Kenya and Spain's Fablan Roncero, the re-spective winners of the women's and men's events in Rotterdan last year, have confirmed that they will run.

RUGBY UNION RUGBY UNION
IRB-FIRA WORLD JUNIOR
CHAMPIONSHIP (Inesday): Second Round (Bridgend): Wales 29
Argentha 5: (Glamorgan Wanderers): Japan 16 Romania 18: (Dunwant): Ireland 24 Italy 15:
(Aberstiney): South Africa 33 France
24: (Aberston): England 89 Poland
3: (Dunwant): Georgia 7 Chile 11:
(Pontypridd): New Zealand 74 Canada 0. Semi-fixal draws: Ireland v New
Zealand (6.0): South Africa v Wales da O. Semi-fizial draws: Ireland v New Zealand (6.0); South Africa v Wales (8.0) (both matches at Bridgend, to-

SNOOKER

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSTEP qualifying (Felford Intermational Centre) Rotted seven: S
O'Connor (Rep of iri) bt D Gray (Eng)
10-5; R Lawler (Eng) bt N Terry (Eng)
10-5; M Davis (Eng) bt C Shade (Sco)
10-4; L Griffin (Eng) bt L Walker (Wal)
10-6; P Sweeny (Eng) bt W Thome
(Eng) 10-0; N Walker (Eng) bt D Tayior (N iri) 10-3; S Lawes (Eng) bt C Harrison (Eng) 10-5; C MacGilliwray (Sco)
bt T Chappel (Wal) 10-8; G Greene
(Eng) bt L Richardson (Eng) 10-4;
C Scanion (Eng) bt S Ali (Pak) 10-7. SNOOKER

FOOTBALL RESULTS

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSRP GROUP THREE

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION PORTONEL LEAGUE Second Division: Prostponed: Clydebank v Ayr.

PONTINS LEAGUE Second Division: Bradford 3 Blackpool 1.

8008DAV'S LATE RESURTS: URBond Laague Pricaler Division: Enery i Runcom 1. Dr. Blattuns League Pricaler Division: Red

DAY'S LATE RESULTS: One Skield: Wolverhampton 57 hoswich 33: Chaffenge Match: Exerc 49 Poole 41.

Barcelona is to stage the 2003 world championships.

The first-round Federation Cup tie between the United States and Croatia, which was due to be played in Zagreb on 17-18 April, has been switched to an as-yet unspecified American venue because of the conflict in the Ralkans. The Euro-Africa Zone Davis Cup tie between Yugoslavia and Morocco from 30 April to 2 May has been switched to Morocco for the same reason, The Marseilles Open winner, Fabrice Santoro, will not play in France's Davis Cup world group

first round match against the

Netherlands at Nimes this weekend because of a rib Injury. WTA FAMILY CIRCLE CUP (Hillso Heed, South Carolina) Women's sin-gles, first round: N Dechy (Fr) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 6-2 6-4; A-G Sidot (Fr) bt C Morarlu (US) 2-6 6-3 6-4; A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt 5 Smith (GB) 6-4 6-3; B Schett (Aut) bt A Kreme 6-4 6-3; B Schett (Aut) bt A Kremer (Lux) 6-1 7-6; R Dragomir (Rom) bt L Osterioh (US) 6-2 6-0; B Rippner (US) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-2 6-2; N Zvere-va (Bui) bt K Hrdikckova (Cz Rep) 7-5

6-3 6-3; R Grande (It) bt A Stevenson (US) 2-6 6-4 7-5; E Makarova (Rus) bt L Nelland (Lat) 6-4 6-0; I Majoli (Croa) the Gagliardi (Swit) 7-5 5-7 6-4; SPils-chke (Aut) bt B Rittner (Ger) 6-3 6-2; M A Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp) bt T Pano-va (Rus) 4-6 6-4 6-3. GIROBANK TOUR (Say Men's sagles, second round: S Harston (Essex) bt B Fulcher (Norfolk)

7-5 6-0; J Marray (Yorks) bt T Spinis (Norfolk) w/o; P Hand (Berks) bt M Ellames (Essex) 7-6 6-3; R Hanger (Dorset) bt C Edmondson (Lancs) w/o; N Gould (Avon) bt J Cains (South Wales) 6-0 6-2; J Fox (Lincs) bt M Trudgeon (Cornwall) 7-5 6-2; J Smith (Northants) bt R Matheson (West of Scotland) 7-6 1-0 rtd; D Crawley (Norfolk) bt V Snyman (SA) 6-2 6-3.

Momen's singles, second rounds i.

Perkins (Durham and Cleveland) bt J O'Donoghue (Lancs) 3-6 6-1 6-3; C Ud-ofa (Nigeria) bt L Collinson (Oxon) 6-6-3; N Trinder (Northumberland) bt N Woodhouse (Norfolk) 6-4 6-2; J Os-man (Sussex) bt H Broome (Lancs) 6-(Kent) 6-3 6-1; Y Doyle (Rep of Ire) bt F Barrett (Wilts) 6-1 6-0; M Berry (Suffolk) bt Silverstone (Surrey) 6-3 6-4: G Atherton (Lancs) bt J Dawson (Sussex) 6-1 6-4.

VOLLEYBALL

The Yugoslavian team has been dropped from this year's World strikes against Serbia.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL 7.30 unless stated FIROPEAN CHAMPIONS witzerland v Wales (7.15) (at Letzigrund Stodium, Zurich)

GROUP THREE Germany v Finland

ken Stadium, Nurembera lova v Northern Ireland (5.0)... GROUP FOUR France y Armenia (7.45) ... (at Stade de France, St-Denis)

GROUP FIVE mbourg v Bulgaria (7.0) ... (at Josy Barthel Studium Lucembourg)

(at Lakomotiv Star

GROUP SIX
San Marino v Spain (8.20)(at Olympic Stadium, Serravalle) GROUP SEVEN

Azerbaijan v Romania (4.0) (at Tofik Bakhromov Stadium, Baku) Jechtenstein v Portugal (at Rheinpark Stadium, Vaduz) ovakla v Hungary (5.0) (ot Slovon Stodium, Brotislovo)

GROUP EIGHT: Postponed: la v Malta; Yugoslavia v Maced GROUP NINE Lithuania v Estonia (4.0)..... (at Zalgiris Stadium, Vii Scotland v Czech repulson, (at Celtic Park, Glasgow) INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY: Neth-drug Argentina (at Ansterdam Argentina

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE Forest Green v Hednesford (7.45) UNIBOND LEAGUE First Division: Congleton Town v Netherfield. DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midland Di-vision: Racing Warwick v Redditch Urd Solihull Borough v Cinderford Town Southern Division 5: Leonards v An-dover. League Cop Semi-final, sec-

one leg: Sutton Codined v Boster Utt.
RYMAN LEAGUE Second Division:
Banstead v Harlow, Taird Division:
Tring v East Thurrock.
WERSTONIEAD KENT LEAGUE Pre**mler Division:** Cray Wanderers v Faversham Town; VCD Athletic v Whit-HISPORT UNITED COUNTIES

LEAGUE Premier Division: Stewars & Lloyds Corby v Long Buckby.
UNDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Hassocks v Redhill. SCREWIFTX DIRECT LEAGUE Promier Division: Bideford v Elmore. NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE

JENISON WESSEX LEAGUE: Cowes Sports v Hamble; Moneyfields v Brock-ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Bedlington Terriers v Seaham Red Star.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Deveronvale v Peterhead (8.0); Huntly v Buckle Thistle. (8,0); Huntily v Buckle Thistle.
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Birmingham v Blackburn (7.15). First Divisions:
Botton v Olcham (7.0); Middiesbrough v Manchester City (7.0); Port
Vale v Barnsley (7.0); West Bromwich v
Tranmere (7.0). Second Division: Huddersfield v Westham (7.0); Lincoln v Norts
County (2.0); Shrewsbury v Stockport
(7.0), Third Division: Carliele v Hull (2.0);
Hallitax v Darlington (2.0); Harphont v

(7.0), Takrd Disistent Cariste v Hull (2.0): Hallhax v Darlington (2.0): Hartlepool Chester (2.0): Wigan v Rochdale (2.0). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Brentford v West Ham (7.0): Brighton v Bournemouth (7.0): Cambridge v Fulham (2.0): Ipswich v Colchester (7.0): Peterborough v Barrel (7.0): Portsmouth v Southampton (7.30): Swindon v Chelsea (7.15). Postponed: Watford v Luton: Crystal Palace v Tottenham.

RUGBY UNION 7.30 unless stated ALLIED DUNBAR wcastle v London Scottish

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION Newport v Portypridd (7.0) ... Club Match: Blackheath v Royal Navy.

BASKETBALL **BUDWEISER LEAGUE** Thames Valley v Leicester (8.0) .

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Taylor considers future DESTITS TAYLOR will consider bis future in the game after crashing out of this year's Embassy World Championships in the seventh qualifying round at

The former winner, who enriched the folklore of the game's leading event by squeezing past Steve Davis 18-17 on the black in the 1985 final, was defeated 10-3 by Nick Walker, the world No 67 from Chester And the 50-year-old from Northern Ireland said: "Twe got until the end of the World Championship to make my mind up as to what the future holds.

SNOOKER

me would have thought I couldn't play. I've put in a lot of hard practice for this but nothing worked for me." With his manager, Ian Doyle,

having received 3,000 letters from Taylor fans pleading for their favourite to continue, there is still a chance that he will play for one more season. Yesterday, Hong Kong's Marco Fu needed only 37 minutes to wrap up a 10-1 victory over Jason Ferguson and move

to within two rounds of a place in the final stages. Fu, closing in on a top-32 ranking next season, led 8-1 don't know what I'm going overnight and when play reto Lo but after 28 years on the sumed he cleared from brown professional circuit that would to black to get within a frame be an embarrassing way to finof victory before winning the ish my career. Anyone watching out there who didn't know 11th on the blue.

SP()RT

RETURN OF THE WINGER P22 TONY BANKS TALKS TO BRIAN VINER P19

Atherton pulls out of World Cup



ENGLAND SUFFERED their first World Cup casualty yesterday when Michael Atherton withdrew from the 15-man squad following the recurrence of a long-standing back injury. His future as a reliable opener at Test level must now be seriously in

increasingly unreliable back. The Lancashire opener will England are preparing for a one-day tournament in Sharjah. He will consult further expert opinion and undergo treatment, a process that could sideline him for several months.

"To be honest, declaring myself unfit is a weight off my mind," Atherton said last night,

BY DEREK PRINGLE

speaking from his hotel in Lahore. Tm disappointed because I really worked hard in Cape Town, where I've been playing with Lancashire, and I felt I'd achieved full mobility. doubt, compromised as it is by an

"But two long air flights, fly home from Pakistan, where which have made my back stiffen up again, have shown me that it's not properly right. In light of that, and the fact that I've had enough of trying to play when not 100 per cent fit, I had no choice but to pull out. I now want to have a period of rehab to get my body properly right, which I am confident I can do."

two trips took the best part of 35 hours - were not the only factors at play. Atherton felt that the need to prove his fitness, although understandable from the selectors' point of view, was rushed.

"After the denervation I had a month ago [a procedure whereby the nerve sending pain from his back is killed off] I felt a more gradual build-up, rather than the mad two days of running around at Lilleshall that I did, would have been better. I have no gripe, though - the selectors and the captain need-

Atherton was one of four World Cup players specifically

in Lahore and Sharjah and the with neither player nor physio selectors will have already earmarked potential replacements for the former captain, whose selection was largely down to his skill as a technician ou green pitches.

Presuming England will replace like with like, then the role fect both tactics and morale, will probably fall to Nasser Hussain or Mark Ramprakash, though the Leicestershire pair of Darren Maddy and Ben Smith way, the selectors must decide by today, the deadline by which 15-man World Cup squads must

Selecting Atherton for duty has become something of an act from the Test against Sri Lanka

able to guarantee fitness for more than a few hours. In fact, over the last eight months his back has forced him to pull out of Tests three times, sometimes on the morning of the match. Such uncertainty can af-

Given the nature of his probwill also be considered. Either lems - a chronic inflammation of the vertebrae has recently been exacerbated by a disc problem - it is something of a minor miracle he has played so often. Before his withdrawal

particularly within the confines

of a 15-man squad, where re-

placements are strictly vetted.

Tests appearances on the trot. most of them as captain.

This time he did not even make it to the nets in Lahore, where England are acclimatising for the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah. "Michael let me know soon

after he woke up," revealed the chairman of selectors, David Graveney, who is also managing England's trip to Lahore and Sharjah. "Michael knew he was back

to square one," admitted Graveney, "so he didn't try to hide or conceal it. We appreciate his honesty, but we're very disappointed for him because

Lengthy air journeys - his required to prove their fitness of faith over recent months, last August, he had managed 62 to do over the past two months to get fit. He could perhaps have tried to get through the next few weeks, but by making a bold decision now, he's again shown that he's a team man."

Graveney was less forgiving over what Atherton, now 31 and with a possible four to five vears more Test cricket in him. would have to do to gain selection in future. "We as selectors. need him to prove to us over a lengthy period of time that he is injury-free, and that would mean playing on a regular basis for Lancashire," he said.

Atherton's iron will may justic ensure that the recuperation period, however long, is not a

Lara's century defies Australia

BRIAN LARA set up a BY BRIAN MCKENNA thrilling finale in the third Test in Bridgetown, Barbados yesterday as West Indies fought back from what seemed a hopeless situation.

The West Indies captain was unbeaten on 112 as his team reached tea 54 short of their target of 308, but with only two wickets standing. They had five, only for Glenn McGrath to spie claim three quick wickets to turn what has been a superb match back in Australia's

The pace bowler, who claimed four wickets in the first innings, ended the 133-run sixth-wicket partnership between Lara and Jimmy Adams by clean bowling Adams for 36. Minutes later he trapped Ridley Jacobs, who scored 68 in the first innings, lbw for five, and got Nehemiah Perry first ball. also lbw, to take his match haul

Lara and Adams, who put on after an early steadying ac- pend on their skipper. tion, Lara cut loose, particularly after lunch. He brought up his Tests have West Indies scored 50 with a huge six over midwicket off Shane Warne and They scored 348 for five against reached his century with an on- New Zealand in Auckland

West Indies 329 & 254-8

Oval crowd was treated to a nerve-tingling new-ball battle between Lara and pacelooked well-placed at 238 for men McGrath and Jason Gille-

> The contest was encapsulated by one fierce over when McGrath struck Lara on the helmet with a bouncer and Lara responded with a mighty pull to the midwicket boundary.

As McGrath and Gillespie tired, the West Indies captain, who scored 213 to win the second Test virtually single-hand- Rain forced the abandonedly, went for his shots.

why he is rated by many as the world's best bowler by turning the tables again. After the bowler had claimed the sixth a record fifth-wicket partner- lbw decision of the innings. ship of 322 in the second Test, Curtly Ambrose survived the came together nine overs into hat-trick ball and then two the final day with their team in more overs without scoring deep trouble at 105 for five. But but West Indies' hopes now de-

Only three times in 350 more than 300 to win a Test. In between those two land- against England at Lord's in

1984 and 317 for two against Pakistan in Georgetown during

8-248.
To bate: C A Walsh.
Bowling: McGrath 38-12-69-5; Gille-spie 22-8-49-2 (nb3); Warne 20-4-53-0 (nb1); MacGill 20-6-45-1; S R Waugh 5-0-19-0 (w1).
Umpires: E A Nicholis (WI) and D L Or-chard (SA).

ment of the sixth and final one But McGrath showed just day international between New Zealand and South Africa at Wellington's Basin Reserve yesterday, although the home side can still square the series if the match can be replayed today. Contributions from the top five South African batsmen helped the tourists to a score of 249 fo 4 in 48.4 overs before rain brought the innings to a premature close and then preventand Herschelle Gibbs appeared to put the tourists on course for 300 after reaching 84 before driven four off the same bowler. during 1968-69, 344 for one Gibbs edged Dion Nash to wicketkeeper Adam Parore.



The West Indies captain, Brian Lara, hits a boundary in his side's run chase against Australia in Barbados yesterday

Reuters

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



cheat (6,6)

See bird go round side 9 Chap putting book in waste receptacle (7) 11 Phones teacher in front

of class (7) 12 One's expected to be

aware of this conversa-tional filler (3,4)

13 Facial hair given new common hair colour (5) 14 A sporting Frenchman? That's applied to no French leader of old (9)

secretary with flowing hair (9) 19 What cyclists do - ring bells when going round end of road (5)

Colour Print, St Albuns Road, Watford

16 Very seductive female

21 Resort in US or some country with nothing extra needed (7) 23 Info associated with

glowing ring element (7)
24 Thinking of great cost in dumping former partner (7) 25 With which one hears the bath outlet, not piano (7) 26 Upset ends with yearlong meeting of

ministers et. al. (7.5) DOWN

Musical work flowed, carried by very good Red lips to be involved in study (7)

change (9) **Inconsistent France**

ousting Portugal in angry display (5) Second position adopted held up Christmas, inencounters a group of characters (8,4) 10 Some American seeming to be from Green-land? (3,9)

clue needs rewriting (9)
17 The writer penning English language medley (7)
18 Annuity scheme giving

money in style (7)
19 Figure college's almost destroyed (7) 20 Tree to be of benefit around capital of Wales

Bargain? I get a note in 22 More than half of event in theatre is a musicdrama (5)

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers,

in long argument (7) Middle Eastern country troducing prohibition (7) Course where one

15 Ancient writer says hard

wants to have a go full-time." OPublished by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canery Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirro

BY GLENN MOORE

family break in the north-east with one match on his mind -Fulham's Easter Monday visit to Reading in the Nationwide League Second Division. At Lancaster Gate, however,

the Football Association was looking further ahead, to September and England's final Euro 2000 qualifying matches against Luxembourg and Po-

KEVIN KEEGAN returned to London this morning from a

England's 3-0 victory over Poland on Saturday, while delighting the FA, has increased its dependence on Fulham's chief operating officer to the extent that it is considering the possibility of allowing him to manage the side part-time through to the autumn

The FA recognises that, should Keegan lead the team to success in the June qualifying matches against Sweden and Bulgaria, it would be a public relations disaster, and probably a footballing error, to then dispense with him if he refused to

Noel White, the chairman of the International Committee, the group charged with finding Glenn Hoddle's successor, told The Independent: "If we are ENGLISH EYES will be looking within a cat's whiskers of qual- towards Chorzow tonight ifying by then it might be possible for Kevin to continue with England on the same basis - un-

That remains the FA's preferred option and it was given succour by the announcement by Mohammed Al Fayed, Fulprepared to release Keegan points clear of England, having

in the summer of 2000, as "a gift to the nation". This would relieve Keegan of what he clearly regards as a debt of honour.

Keegan, who was appointed England coach last month, has so far insisted he will relinquish the post after completing his four-match stint in June but he did say after Saturday's victory that a "there might be a so-

This encouraged the FA acting chairman, Geoff Thompson, who said: "Perhaps after he has been successful in his next matches he - and the country will feel he is the right man for the job and that he is the right man to lead us into the European Championship in the Low Countries next year."

The FA is still considering alternatives - "we need a fallback position," said one official - but is in almost daily contact Keegan: 'Right man'

with Keegan. In his favour is his fhat and allow Keegan to con-run on his contract, claimed he ability to delegate, to Frank Sib-tinue-for another couple of was told he did not fit with ley at Fulham, and to Arthur Cox, Derek Fazackerly and Howard Wilkinson with Eng-

FA close to Keegan solution

Against him is the danger that England could come second, rather than first in the group, and have to endure a home-and-away play-off in November

Given England's poor start. the FA would probably settle for



tinue for another couple of was told he did not fit into months. But what then? If England qualify the cur-

rent view within the FA is that it would be impossible for Keegan to combine coaching Fulham, who could be involved in promotion play-offs up until late May, and also prepare England for a major championship. However, it also feels that, should England qualify, it would be self-evident that the arrangement is working.

The result is a wait-and-see policy although clarification and maybe Keegan agreeing to take the job full-time - could come once Fulham have secured promotion from the Second Division.

One England coach will be leaving in June. Peter Taylor, the Under-21 coach, yesterday revealed that he will be replaced. Taylor, who was appointed by Hoddle, probably expected it, though his reign has been largely successful.

Poland 'must win' Sweden game

where Poland, their victims at Wembley last Saturday, must beat Sweden or abandon hope less he's changed his mind and of winning automatic qualification for Euro 2000 from

Group Five. Sweden have a perfect haul of nine points from three games, with the Poles on six. If ham's owner, that he would be Sweden win they will go six

By Tommy Staniforth

played the same number of

Yesterday Poland's coach, games under Wojcik, who took over as coach last year.

Poland will be without the deagainst England last week was fender Tomasz Hajto, who an accident."

earned his second yellow card of the group at Wembley, and the striker Sylwester Czereszewski.

Tommy Soderberg, Sweden's coach, is likely to play the same Janusz Wojcik, said: "We are team that beat Luxembourg playing at home and we must 2-0 on Saturday and is expectwin." The defeat against Eng- ing Poland to attack from the land was their first loss in 10 start. "I am sure Poland will make it an onslaught," he said. "They want to show that the loss

ment claiming Taylor had been offered a new role in the Football Association's technical department with "new responsibilities" The statement added that these responsibilities were to include "coach education and involvement with international

Wilkinson's long-term plans.

Wilkinson then issued a state:

teams which could have included the England Under-21 Taylor was clearly not prepared to put up with what he saw as a diluting of his position. after having the power to select the side under Hoddle. He is likely to be replaced by David Platt in the short-term, working alongside Wilkinson initial before assuming full control 15 judge from his comments yes-

terday, this aspect will not please Taylor. He said: "I've got the utmost respect for Howard Wilkinson. He has a tremendous knowledge of the game and if he takes over the Under-21s I can understand that. But I can only be honest and if someone with lesser experience than myself takes over then I would be even more disappointed that I

wasn't the choice." Platt has already worked under Wilkinson in the England Under-18 set-up and his involvement is part of a long-term strategy to groom international coaches which, the FA hopes, will prevent the England team having to share a club manager

ever again. Leicester inquiry, page 23

Nice gar

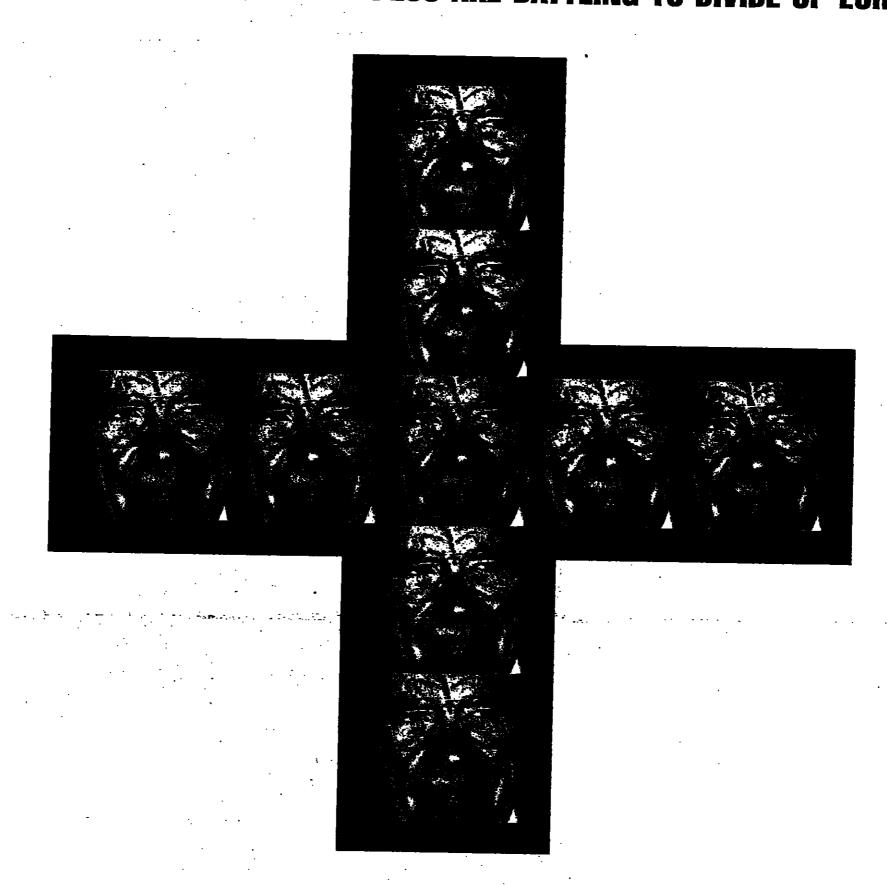
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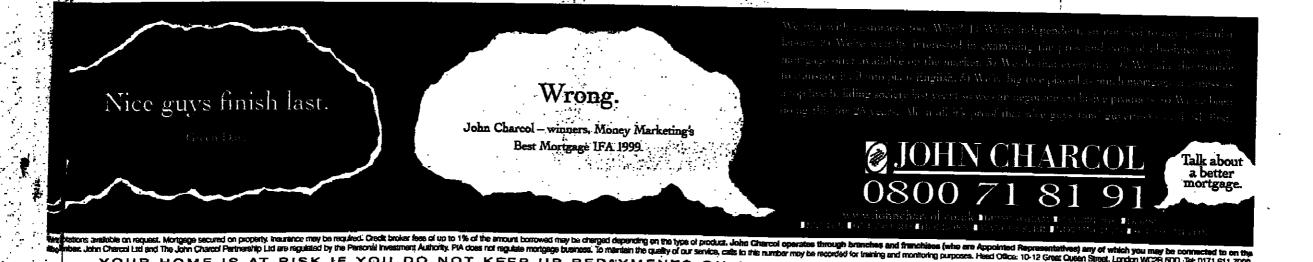
DANGEROUS EQUATIONS

HOW RUPERT MURDOCH + CANAL PLUS ARE BATTLING TO DIVIDE UP EUROPE'S



Inside: Is Tomkins a fashion victim or fatally flawed? Page 5 Who's funding the Internet frenzy? Page 4 Revealed: the biggest noise in the music biz. Page 6

> Plus: Hamish McRae, Diane Coyle, Derek Pain, Jonathan Davis and The Trader INCLUDES FINANCE AND INVESTMENT



Why we're all bitten by this bug, like it or not

FIRST it was just the odd down-page column, and it says it is 22 Februstory. Then it started to become a ary 1900. Silly - but not very imregular news item. Now hardly a day passes without some reference, usually in the form of a dire warning. Gradually the threat to the world economy posed by the millennium bug has risen up the news agenda. Expect it to rise further in the coming months - indeed by the time the millennium arrives it will be quite a relief to know that soon, whatever the outcome, the story itself will pass into history

The fact that many computer programs will be unable to recognised the year 2000 and think it is 1900 has been a profound worry for anyone involved in the IT world for the last three or four years. But it has been essentially a technical and financial issue: what needs to be fixed and how much will it cost. Companies and governments have been busy organising themselves to fix their computers, and see that their suppliers and customers were doing the same. But for the rest of us it has been, at best, an amusing quirk and at worst a bore. It has been hard to believe it matters. For example, someone must have misset the date on the little portable computer on which I am writing this

portant because I am not relying on

the computer to tell me the date. In the last few weeks, though, the tone of the stories has changed. Suddenly it is becoming an economic story. Many people now realise that whether or not the bug is the threat it has been cracked up to be, the fact that people are worried about the bug's potential destructive powers will mean that it will have an important impact on the world economy.

Thus banks are stocking up on cash. This may be partly because they fear electronic payments systems might fail but it is much more because they fear people will want a larger-than-usual stock of cash. Fund managers are planning to cut trading in the weeks before and after the millennium in case trading systems go down. Conference organisers are pushing forward conferences to November or back to March just in case air travel is

So even if there were no direct impact - if every computer and every embedded chip in the world still lead to some disruption. What now more than 6 per cent of GDP

omy? Well, in world financial circles perhaps the most alarmist view comes from Dr Ed Yardini, at Deutsche Securities in New York. He has upped his estimate of the chances of there being a "Y2K" global recession to 70 per cent. True, he assumes that there will be serious computer failures and he may or may not be right about this. But he puts the argument in an interesting way by comparing the shock from the millennium bug with the oil shocks of the Seventies. Then we were an energy-driven economy so any break in the supply of energy damaged the world economy. Now we are an information-driven

The parallel is beguiling, but it seems to me that you don't need to accept his argument to believe that he may be correct in his conclusions. He may be right for the wrong reasons. This is because the bug is adding to economic activi-ty ahead of the millennium and will subtract from it afterwards. Spending on IT investment, particularly in the US, has soared in functioned perfectly - the bug would the last three to four years and is

one and we face the threat of a

break in the supply of information.



HAMISH: **MCRAE**

The timing of the millennium comes at a bad point in the world economic cycle, when we're facing a tricky transition from inflation to deflation

and more than half of all US capi- ... month before) they will wait and seg tal investment. Naturally much of that investment would have taken place anyway and is associated. with the extraordinary longevity of the American boom.

It is very hard to distinguishwhat spending is fixing problems and what is putting in new systems. to improve productivity. So expect investment in IT to race on afterthe bug is a long forgotten problem. But the very dependence on IT sys: tems for the vibrancy of US economic activity is itself a concern if there is doubt about the vulnerability of the systems. And once the great burst of work now going on to fix the bug problem is over, it would be astounding if there were not some sort of pause in spending - if only to assess priorities for the future.

There are therefore likely to be two different types of postmillennial flop. One comes from fear: that through the summer and autumn both companies and ities (and hence purchases) they think might be affected by the

what is what For industries that can stockoile their output this may not be too much of a problem. For those that cannot, like airlines, the prospect is alarming indeed.

The second type of flop will stem from a swing in the IT investment cycle. The investment cycle has ness cycle, but until recently IT was not a large portion of investment. shares. We have lots of experience of the We as disruption impact of other investment cycles: airlines buying aircraft in good times, only to have them delivered at just the moment when demand fell, or property companies starting to build office blocks in a boom, only to complete them and have them half-empty in the next slump. But we don't have any experience of an IT investment cycle.

Maybe this will be the first one. To this must be added the possibility of a third type of flop, a financial market flop. Markets go up individuals will stockpile ahead of and markets go down. You do not the event, bringing forward activ-need to paint the more extreme borror scenarios to accept that present valuations, particularly on Wall bug. Then for a couple of months Street, are stretched. If there is a after the event (and maybe a general "the party's over" feeling

around the millennium, it would be surprising if this were not re flected to some extent in share

There is a precedent of sorts. Ir December 1899 the Dow fell by nearly a quarter. It subsequently re covered - but of course the US econ omy now is more vulnerable u long been recognised as one of the market moves than it was then be drivers of the more general busi- cause a much larger proportion o the nation's wealth is tied up ir

We are a bit unlucky. The timins of the millennium comes at a bac point in the world economic cycle towards the end of a long boom in America, but before Japan and East Asia has recovered from its most serious post-war slump and when the European economy is performing unevenly. In addition, the world is facing a tricky transition from inflation to deflation.

The oil shock came at a bad time too: a sudden rise in energy prices at just the moment the world was facing an inflationary boom. But just as we could not chose the timing of the first oil shock, we cannot chose the timing of the millennium even if my computer thinks we have prematurely reached the end of the century and gone back to 1900.

DATELINE: HONG KONG

Superman's son asked for a miracle

BY STEVEN VINES

BEING THE youngest son of Li Kashing, Hong Kong's most highprofile tycoon, confers certain advantages in life. Unsurprisingly, it has not done any harm to the burgeoning career of Richard Li Tzarki, 31. He has his father to thank for being given a leg-up in the business world. Now the Hong Kong government is about to hand him the key to the colony in the shape of the job of building its hi-tech future.

Mr Li senior was a master of low tech. He made his first fortune in the Fifties by producing plastic flowers. But he soon discovered there was more money to be had in redeveloping the factories that make them.

As a property tycoon, Mr Li senior has few equals: local investors call him "superman". When times were bad, as they were in the Seventies, he showed how adversity could be property-buying spree and emerging with buckets full of cash.

Times are bad again in Hong Kong so it is perhaps not entirely panies at this time spent the equivsurprising that the government has turned to his youngest son

other miracle. Like the rest of the world, the bureaucrats who run Hong Kong have finally caught up with the idea that high technology is the key to high levels of economic growth. They have come to this realisation rather late in the day but treat it as a truly

original thought.

Looking wistfully at Silicon Valley in the US and, more recently, at hitech developments in Israel, the bureaucrats have decided that they want a share of the action and, this being Hong Kong, they want it now.

Mr Li junior has been brought in to develop something called a cyberport, a 858,000 sq ft prime site, described as a port because it nestles close to the shoreline. Wired up with all the latest electronic hardware. the site is planned to house 130 companies, ranging from very large organisations, such as IBM, to small two-men-and-a-desktop type of companies which are supposed to thrust Hong Kong into the information



Richard Li: Following in his high-profile father's footsteps

age. It will take quite a bit of thrusting because Hong Kong is notoriously deficient when it comes to developing new technology. In 1996turned to profit by embarking on a 97 local companies invested a mere £250m on research and development, equivalent to 0.27 per cent of gross auction. domestic product. Japanese comalent of 0.6 per cent.

A survey conducted in 1994 found that a third of Hong Kong companies spent nothing at all on research and development, even this figure might not reflect the whole picture because very small companies were not included in the survey. Surveys do not appear to have been conducted since then, presumably the last ex-

ercise was too depressing. Moreover, Hong Kong has a severe shortage of people with hightechnology skills, probably no more than 37,000 who qualify in some way, and has an immigration policy which makes it hard for qualified

foreigners to join the workforce. However, Sir Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's ever-optimistic Financial Secretary, is confident that the cyberport "will provide quality products to upgrade our current economic activities and enable us to reach out to the limitless cyber

Some £1bn is to be invested in the project and it is expected to create

nies such Hewlett-Packard and the internet-surfing group Yahoo.

But there are aspects of this deopment which make some people in Hong Kong question whether any of this will really happen. For a start, there is some unease about the government dropping its traditional laissez-faire stance when it comes to the development of new industry. Hong Kong used to pride itself on the government keeping its nose out of business and letting the market decide which way the economy should

Now the government has decreed that high technology is the direction to take and backed its faith with an unprecedented gift of this large piece of property to Mr Li junior's Century Pacific Group.

Land is one of Hong Kong's most precious commodities. The government is the sole owner of land and usually releases it by a process of tender or auction. In this instance there was no tender and no

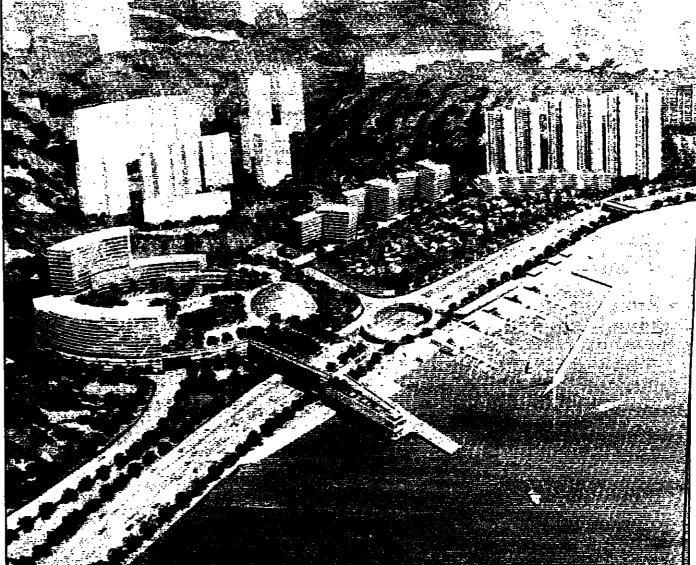
Only Pacific Century was invited to develop the site and it will have to pay only once it starts getting ments from its tenants.

One third of the cyberport project will, in fact, be devoted to a residential property development. The idea being that property rentals will subsidise the other hi-tech

According to the government, it gave the property to Mr Li junior because his company was the only one with the resources and the sophisticated technical knowhow to get the project off the ground.

This claim is being greeted with a degree of scepticism because the part of the Century Pacific Group which has been given the land is a private company whose assets are hidden from the public domain. Its listed arm is in Singapore and contains a hotch-potch of property and insurance company holdings.

The company has no moneymaking operations which involve information technology but it has signed a deal with Intel the USbased semiconductor maker. As 16,000 jobs with the help of compa- matters stand, the signature on the esoteric operation employing very



This illustration shows how Hong Kong's cyberport project at Telegraph Bay in the Pokfulam district will look

part of the deal. Nevertheless, Mr Li unior talks a lot about new technology and when he set up Pacific Century in 1993, at the age of 26, he declared that it would be a holding company for high-technology investments. The only hi-tech project it actually got off the ground was an

small aperture terminal technology used to provide telecommunications links for companies in areas where telecom facilities were poor. After a couple of years, in which not a penny was earned, this company was sold off to the publicly listed

Hutchison Whampoa, controlled by Mr Li senior. Mr Li junior's company is still

talking about a number of hi-tech projects: it remains to be seen whether any of them will fly. What is sure is that Pacific Century will use the cyberport to build an office block or two and a large number of

No one in Hong Kong seems to remember how Mr Li senior laid the basis for his fortune. He went

developed properties to allow to develop for them and paid theak once he had built gleaming ndifices. Mr Li junior looks as th he is doing exactly the saulthough he claims to be doinglething quite different ane government is investing an a bt of faith in him.

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL PRESS



BARRON'S How the debate has shifted from 'whether' to 'when' China will devalue its currency

THE SPECULATION has been fuelled by reports that Beijing has formed a special team to study the impact of a possible devaluation of the yuan, and a warning by China's top foreigntrade official that the nation's exports face a very tough, very difficult' year. Capital flight puts further pressure on the yuan. Last summer, we didn't anticipate the magnitude and rapidity of China's economic slide, underscored by skyrocketing unemployment, increasing bankruptcies of state enterprises and banks, and rising violence in economically ravaged rural areas.

- Neil A Martin



FINANCIAL TIMES As the outlook in Europe deteriates. rates need to fall as well as the euro to provide relief for industry

THE BIGGEST obstacle to lower interest rates in the euro-zone has been politics rather than economics. The ECB has been determined to prove its independence in the face of calls for lower rates from politicans. With the departure of Oskar Lafontaine, the former German finance

minister, this must not continue. The International Monetary Fund last week became the latest international institution to call for lower euro-zone rates. The ECB has proved its independence from policiticans. It must not now demonstrate an indifference to common sense.

– Editorial



THE ECONOMIST Why the US should raise interest rates and return to its policy position of last summer

THE FED cut rates three times last autumn. [But] since September, fears of a credit crunch have dissipated; the Dow has risen some 25 per cent and the US economy has grown even more briskly than predicted. There is a risk that a rise in rates

might trigger a fall on Wall Street, harming not only the US economy. But while the Fed should be raising rates, the European Central Bank should be cutting them, and Japan needs reflation too. For the Fed, doing nothing is riskier still. It is not the central bank's job to prop up an overvalued stockmarket.

BusinessWeek

BUSINESS WEEK Why resistance to hostile takeovers

on the restructuring it needs SINGLE shareholder frequently holds a majority stake in German companies. Interlocking holdings among banks and insurers is further

means Germany risks missing out

defence against unwanted intrusion. It's time for German authorities to give companies more freedom to the order book, because they cannot duke it out until the best wins.

Schröder, now Chancellor, could temporarily cut the 50-per-cent-plus capital-gains tax to prod banks to sell industrial stakes. The take-over code needs to be made mandatory too. German execs know they have to toughen up. Their government should give them a nudge in the right direction. – Editorial Jack Ewing, Frankfurt bureau

FINANCIAL NEWS On the real problem with the Stock Exchange's new electronic order book

ONE OF the biggest problems with Sets is that old-fashioned fund managers are still so wedded to the idea of instant execution. Time and again they deal with brokers on a risk basis, instead of putting business through resist what appears to be an attractive bid from the broker. What the fund managers need to remember is that if brokers are bidding them for stock, it is because they know they can make money on it. Marketmaking firms that struggled to make a decent return under the old trading system are making hay under Sets. -Editorial

NEWSWEEK On the new Dow Generation, which believes that God created stocks in order to make them rich

AMONG HOUSEHOLDS a record 44 per cent now own stocks. Yet they've been taking some money out. Last year, individuals sold a net \$500bn of the equities they hold directly. Net purchases by mutual funds fell 14 per cent. So why is the Dow still going up? Partly, it's the result of a net decline in the supply of stocks. Things like mergers and buybacks shrank the market by \$178bn last year. Speculation is helping, too. As a percentage of personal income, money borrowed from bro- system is one of the surest wa kers to buy stock has never been so high. And you can't rule out the Dow-Gen's buil, It's their special mark. – Jane Bryant Quinn

FORTUNE On how US politicans e₁₈₁ principles of free trade lose of the practice of protectioni

THE THEORY is that Brazil and Russia are 'dumping' steel ing below the cost of production US markets. Taken as a whole 1 icy conveys a strange messi Americans should happily sen dollars to ailing economies, b should object if they send us st return. This defies all logic.

Policymakers would do eve a favour if the they heeded the o gan: "trade, not aid." An open tr promote growth around the v Sadly, current American poli getting things exactly backwar

- N Gregory Ma

مكذا من ألاصل

it or not'



Pierre Lescure undoubtedly matches Rupert Murdoch with the extent of his ambition, which is to make French TV company Canal Plus a 'major' in the Hollywood sense of the word

Sino

Canal + Murdoch = war

WAY Pierre Lescure tells it, there was short change in Rupert Murdoch's appropriate when he came to France in Januspropose a merger of his British Sky teasting with Canal Phs. "He was the stating with a fair dose of Maurice Chaier. The 53-year-old former TV procedure. The 53-year-old former TV procedure presenter, who has run Canal \$1094, smiles. "Before January, Rupert han always talked about coming to the Chant and taking the wheel. This is the firstie that he talked about offering a

stat one of his jewels [in return]."

Bis with all of Murdoch's attempts
soils obtain a foothold in Continental
Eirrs fast growing pay-TV market, it

was to be.

Moch's proposal to merge News Corne per cent-controlled "jewel" BS with Canal Plus foundered on a numbrissues. There were the screams of pri from French politicians worried aboutnowsion of cheap imported programg on French TV screens. Murdock utspoken anti-European views and impatience with government regulation any form also grated with the Left-colled French government. Murdoch? have wanted Paris but Paris didn'th to want him.

For part, Lescure set some tough condits on a Canal-Sky merger too, notably the new company would be under Frencentrol. The merger would have cost Moch dearly. Besides ceding managementerol, there were tax issues involveder just three meetings, the deal was out the fact that it was Murdoch knockon Canal's door says volumes about strong the French pay-TV company become.

"Tears ago we were a little afraid of Much," confided a senior Canal Plus execu: "Now we are a force. We control lillion subscriptions. Murdoch doesnare us anymore."

Tacropean pay-TV market is set to grow habout 55 million subscribers at the en1998 to about 97 million by 2006, accord to figures from Baskerville Countations. And with digital technology business is about more than just TV inctive services from weather to Interpretess are part of the pay-TV picture, 1003 there will be 29 million digital set boxes in Europe with a built-in modescording to consultancy Datamonit

Much runs a global media empire, and in UK BSkyB has a virtual stranglehol pay TV, but across the Channel, Murd is notable for his absence. Not that han't been trying. But his frontal assam Germany and Italy have so far yield-tile.

Mobile, Canal Plus boasts pay-TV operas in 11 European countries, and north Africa. After three years of heavy costs annch digital services, 1999 will see Ol break even on its French digital bress and return to 1996 pre-digital cashw levels of an estimated 4bn Freduncs (£420m):

BY KATE BULKLEY

t looked like a dream deal for Rupert Murdoch. Hitch Sky to Canal Plus and corner the European market in pay TV. But he reckoned without the ambition of the French TV mogul Pierre Lescure...

In the grand European plan, Lescure's only gap is in Germany, but even there Canal sells some of its thematic channels on the extensive cable network and holds a minority stake alongside Murdoch in VOX. Murdoch has said he could turn VOX into a pay-TV platform, but little has actually been done.

For the time being the powerful Kirch Group holds the upper band in German pay TV. The ageing but very wily Leo Kirch is negotiating to take full control of the pay-TV operator Premiere from its partner, but erstwhile rival, the channel Bertelsmann. Bertelsmann, which also publishes newspapers and magazines and owns publishers Random House, seems to be pursuing an alternative strategy, moving quickly into online ventures with AOL, Barnes and Noble, and Lycos. It wants to keep its extensive free-TV business, which runs the RTL stable of channels, but may be prepared to surrender Premiere. Gaining control of Premiere will give Kirch the distinction of ruling Germany's pay-TV market which, contrary to its free-TV business, is under-developed.

Over the years, Murdoch and Canal Plus have both tried to gain pay-TV footholds in Germany. But the huge number of free-TV channels, plus local and European regulations that have limited the ability of the German players, namely Bertelsmann, Deutsche Telekom and Kirch, to work together, has made pay TV expensive to operate and has limited its growth.

Earlier this month Kirch reorganised and created stronger ties with Mediaset the TV and advertising arm of Silvio Berlusconi's Fininvest. However, the new DM11bn (£3.8bn) company which counts Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal as an investor, does not include Kirch's loss-making digital pay-TV business DF1, nor its stake in Premiere. So some observers see

Kirch looking for partners in pay TV.

Lescure's comment on Germany is that he hopes Kirch can revive DF1 so Canal Plus can sell him their thematic

Locked out of Germany at least for the time being. Murdoch earlier this year made a run at Italy. In a thinly veiled attempt to look more European, he hired the former head of the Italian state broadcaster, Letizia Moratti, and announced a deal with Telecom Italia to develop its fledgling pay-TV business, which was suffering against its rival, Tele+, which is controlled by Canal Phys.

As it turned out, the deal with Telecom Italia was more Murdoch bravado than substance. Italian politicians, wary of allowing Italian TV to fall into foreign hands, also moved quickly. A new cap on the number of football games a pay-IV operator can control was put into place, leaving Murdoch little ammunition against the dominant player Tele+. Shortly after this fiasco, Murdoch came calling in Paris,

Lescure undoubtedly matches Murdoch

Lescure undoubtedly matches Murdoch with the extent of his ambition. Each controls a different end of the spectrum - Lescure has Europe, not the world, while for Murdoch the situation is reversed. Canal Plus is a big name in France, but Lescure

wants to be taken seriously by the Englishspeaking world. When he was first invited to the Allen & Co annual gathering of the

world's media elite at Sun Valley, where the likes of Barry Diller, John Malone, Jeffrey Katzenberg and Murdoch himself rub shoulders, Lescure was thrilled. One senior TV executive who knows him well says: "Pierre loves all that." For Lescure, the man who once dated French film icon Catherine Deneuve and counts Gerard Depardieu as a good friend, Sun Valley is access to the Anglo-Saxon world.

Canal Plus is fast developing outside of France, where nearly half of its subscription base now lies (see chard). Its core channel, called Canal+, has been up and running since November 1984 and mixes exclusive sports, movies and entertain-ment, much of it locally produced. The company holds exclusive pay rights to French football league games until 2001. Under its government licence, Canal Plus puts 20 per cent of its revenues into acquiring film rights, and has traditionally invested in 90 per cent of the films made in France. The company also has invested in 30 different thematic channels, from a documentary channel, Planete, to a 1950s US cult TV channel, Jimmy, named after James Dean and Jimmy Hendrix. Twenty-two of these channels have been developed with the former international arm of Tele-Communications Inc (TCI). Canal also owns about a third of Eurosport. Many of the Canal channels are localised and exported to the company's non-French services,

Canal Plus was quicker to introduce dig-

ital television than Sky. Partly this was due to competitive pressure in France from a rival service called TPS, controlled by TF1. Since launching its CanalSatellite digital service in April 1996 Canal Plus has signed up 1.2 million subscribers in France. TPS counts about 610,000 subscribers. But Canal Plus's roots - and for the time being its profits - are in its flagship terrestrial service. Today 75 per cent of its 4.5 million French subscribers pay 179FF (£19) a month to receive just the one-channel service. In other European countries, Canal Plus has tried to replicate the French model, with varying degrees of success. But all of its non-French operations

years (see chart).

In Spain, with publishing powerhouse the Prisa Group, Canal Plus has had a rough time juggling shifting government rules that form the background to on-gain, off-again merger talks with its rival, Via Digital, controlled by the former state-owned telecom operator Telefonica.

are set to break even over the next three

Early in 1997 Canal Plus achieved a real coup by acquiring its biggest pay-TV competitor NetHold – owners of the FilmNet film channel – from the luxury goods company Richemont. Although some said the price tag was high, the deal extended Canal's presence in several key markets, namely Scandinavia and the Benelux countries, and gave Canal a minority stake in Tele+.

That same year Canal Plus also did a little horse trading with Kirch, selling Kirch its stake in Premiere, and buying Kirch's 45 per cent stake in Tele+, thereby giving it control of the Italian pay-TV operator.

Last year Vivendi, the water-to-media group formerly known as Compagnie Generale des Eaux, took direct control of Canal Plus when it increased its stake in the advertising group Havas, which has a large stake in Canal Plus. At the time observers wondered if Lescure's powers would be undermined by Vivendi's aggressive and driven CEO, Jean-Marie Messier.

However, when Lescure perceived a threat to CanalSatellite, which Canal Plus owns with partners, French producer Pathe and US giant Time Warner, Messier was quick to pitch in. When Canal Plus's rival TF1 began purchasing shares in Pathe, Lescure and Vivendi stepped in buying nearly 30 per cent of Pathe's shares. TF1 maintains it was only making a friendly alliance with Pathe, but it also controls TPS, CanalSatellite's rival. Lescure was not about to have his rival so close to "the heart" of CanalSatellite.

Before taking the top job at Canal Plus, Lescure was the programming director. His ambition is to make Canal Plus a "major" in the Hollywood sense of the word. His first experience with the Hollywood set cost Canal Plus more than \$25m (£15m) as his partners, Carolco, crashed and burned in the mid-1990s through budget mismanagement. It was an expensive lesson. Lescure's 17 per cent shareholding in that deal gave him no voice and nowadays it is an equal partnership or nothing.

That is the structure of the year-old movie deal he has with Warner Brothers, the first fruit of which – a film called Message in a Bottle starring Kevin Costner – opens in Europe this summer.

Lescure says that all the elements are in position to build a full-scale global company. His power in France in particular, and Europe in general, may be providing the foundation, but it is also holding him back.

"All we need to decide is the architecture of the house," says Lescure. But if he wants a room with a view of the whole world, then France's most powerful TV mogul will have to put all his focus into projects outside his homeland, especially in North America. Canal Plus has had some success selling its pay-TV technology into the US market, but programming is Lescure's probable best building block to the English-speaking world. Recently Lescure decided to group together his production, TV rights and distribution assets into a re-vamped company called Canal Plus Images, which will float on the market in the next 18 months.

But although great programming is the way forward for Lescure's global ambition, it will be his political skills which will be tested. The Australian-born Murdoch started off as just as much an outsider in America, and eventually had to become a legal US citizen to dodge US media laws. Pierre Lescure could never be so obvious this countrymen would souffle him), but somehow or other, he'll find the appropriate key to open the New World door.

THE COUP THAT GAVE CANAL PLUS TO M LESCURE

THE STORY goes that Pierre-Lescure, who was working as a news director at public station Anterna 2, took barely five minutes to accept the post of programme director at the newly founded Canal Plus. The request came in late 1983 from Canal Plus founder André Rousselet, then a top executive at Havas, who had a vision and the right political connections (he was a golfing buddy of former French President François Mitterand) to get a license to run a channel to com-

THE STORY goes that Pierre pete against France's three gov-Lescure, who was working as a erument-owned channels. news director at public station An Rousselet wanted to set up an

Rousselet wanted to set up an HBO-like pay TV movie channel but French law prevents airing movies on Friday and Saturday nights, to protect French chema. So Lescure mixed movies with live sports coverage, documentaries and missical events. He also spearheaded the development of home grown programming, from cartoons made by Canal's own studios to the popular Les Guignols, a satirical look at society and

politics that uses sophisticated puppets to poke fun at everyone from French politicians to the heads of Canal Plus's rivals. Lescure himself has a puppet. When of the company acquired Nethold, we have cure himself has a puppet. When of the company acquired Nethold, we have company acquired Nethold, we have company acquired Nethold, we have describing Canal's "simple" structure; he kept climbing with higher and higher—on to his desk, grup an elevator—to add pieces to the organisational chart, until finally he was floating in a spaceship saying: "See, it's all very cure from the pupper of the companisational chart, until finally he was floating in a spaceship saying: "See, it's all very cure from the pupper of the companisation of the

Lescure became COO of Canal Plus in 1986. By late 1993 and early 1994 Rousselet was fighting with his main shareholder Havas over a consolidation of its stake with another shareholder Compagnie Générale des Eaux.

It was part of the first steps toward creating the multi-media group now called Vivendi, but Rousselet felt that his power at Canal was being stripped away Rousselet resigned and Les-

cure was named CEO in

Born July 1945
October 1982 news director
Antenna 2
November 1983 Joined Canal

Pierre Lescure:

Plus as programme director May 1986 COO of Canal Plus February 1994 chairman and CEO Canal Plus Lescure is president of the Paris St-Germain football club (in which Canal Plus owns a stake) and he is chairman of Canal Plus's film sub-

sidiary Studio Canal

Theorists should admit they make mistakes

that comes with age and mother ship. There are few parts of the hood, but it seems to me that the world outside the club of advanced most frightening people are those who are sure they are right. Far periencing turbulence from the less damage is caused by the tentative folks who are prepared to admit they might be mistaken, and that goes for economic policy as

much as anything else. There has been a series of spectacular demonstrations in recent years of the damage inflicted by excess certainty on the world economy. Most of them have involved developing countries which have fallen victim to one theory or another about how economies progress. The transition economies of Eastern Europe and Russia were hammered by the extreme free market ideology of the Thatcher and Reagan era, and the notion that markets were the one and only key to development also carried over to East Asia.

It must be pretty obvious to even the most hardened ideologue by now that markets are not enough. Russia is in turmoil. In Asia, some countries, such as South Korea, seem on the way to recovery, but know enough about reality be-permeate everyday economics.

IT IS a sign of either greater wisdom or the woolliness of thought ing terrible dislocation and hardpost-industrial economies not ex-

wash of the global financial crisis.

In circumstances like these,

economic historians come into their own. A new pamphlet by scant understanding of the role one eminent historian, Douglass North, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs (the IEA was one of the pioneers of that damaging free-market extremism), makes an eloquent case for being modest about what we can achieve in terms of economic development. Professor North writes: "Economic history is an endless depressing tale of miscalculation ceit and warfare, death, economic stagnation and decline, and indeed

an aberration. He suggests there are three ways we normally get things

the disappearance of whole civili-

sations." The spectacular growth

four or five centuries is, he argues,

complex. A second is being misled by a particular belief system or ideology, which means we will twist evidence to what we think ought to be true. The third, and most interesting in the context of the recent upheaval in emerging and transition economies, is having played by institutional structures

and politics in economic growth.

Clearly, one of the explanations for the differing abilities of countries to cope with the financial crisis has been their differing institutional frameworks. It has become part of the new conventional wisdom to say that strong banking systems, an incorrupt civil service, the application of the rule of law, leading to famine, starvation, de- and so on, are preconditions for economic development. This has also been emphasised in the work of many outstanding academic economists over the years, inof the Western world in the past cluding Amartya Sen, last year's winner of the Nobel Prize in ecoomics. But it is true to say it has been overlooked by many professional economists in the recent wrong. One is never being able to past and is only now starting to



DIANE COYLE

Look at the damage inflicted by excess of certainty - it must be obvious to even the most hardened ideologue that free markets alone are not enough

blindingly obvious all along - and was to many non-professionals. David Held and others, is an im-"Any market that is going to work well is structured; it is strucmake the players compete by more of this sort of insight. price and quality rather than compete by killing each other."

structure the game in such a way as to minimise violence and gains. This will require radically different structures at different times, because circumstances example, turning what was once a natural monopoly into a potentially competitive market.

the recipe for growth are more and a better quality of both - and technical progress. The missing ingredient is the right institutional structure. Some of the gaps in our understanding are starting to be filled by research on globalisation. For the first time there ering the whole planet, not just the other? Similarly, the US has a Perroton (Polity Press)

pressive and comprehensive syn-

- It is not fust a matter of preventing Western academics The job of government is to wreaking unintended havoc on developing countries, although there is clearly a need for intelpoverty and maximise economic lectual modesty here. Insight into institutions and politics also matters for our understanding of our own economies and how their perchange-technology moves on, for formance might be improved. In a recent speech Lawrence Summers, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, noted that no two coun-The conventional elements of tries with a McDonald's had gone to war with each other. It's a funny

people, more physical capital - line, but makes a serious point. To get even more parochial, there is an institutional and political chasm between Anglo-Saxon and Continental labour markets. The US has low unemployment, Europe high levels. Wage strucis a lot of comparative work cov- widely. Is one model better than the David Goldblatt and Jonathan

Professor North spells out advanced or just the developing vastly greater rate of new business here what ought to have been economies. A book published this start-ups and dominates the highweek Global Transformations by technology industries. This is an aspect of the American economy that Gordon Brown would like to thesis of recent political and import to the UK. The Budget contured by deliberate efforts to economic changes. We need a lot tained a few modest tax incentives. but we actually know very little about what it is in America that fosters entrepreneurship and an aptitude for computers.

The best of Britain's economics profession, gathering in Nottingham this week for the annual conference of the Royal Economic Society, appears to have been smitten with uncertainty compared with years past. The research being presented is beavily weighted towards the empirical and the institutional. Perbaps we will start getting some answers now that the fact there is a question has been acknowledged.

d.coyle@independent.co.uk Understanding the Process of Economic Change', by Douglass North (EEA 0171-799 3745) 'Global Transformations', bu tures and benefit systems differ David Held, Anthony McGrew,

FOCUS

Will the Internet frenzy ever die?

HISTORY IS not a popular topic on the stock market or with Internet entrepreneurs. But the frantic pace of activity among new Internet stocks raises some questions about how far the past is a guide to future market performance in one of the most fast-developing areas of investment.

At the end of last year, it looked as if the market for initial public offerings (IPOs) of Internet companies had died under the weight of supply and concerns about the broader market place. In the past few months it has exploded again, and the flow of new IPOs in the coming weeks looks almost unstoppable, raising questions about whether history will repeat itself.

The IPO market as a whole had a hair-curling ride last year, culminating with Stephen Paternot and Todd Krizelman making Wall Street by venture capital firms, which history when their Internet company, theglobe.com, surged to a record premium on the first day's trading. The huge volume of public offerings in the first half of the year then dried up as oversupply, turmoil formance in the after-market hit demand. In the first quarter of 1998 there were 65 deals raising \$5.5bn (£3.3bn) in equity, according to Renaissance Capital's IPO Intelligence Online, rising to 104 deals and \$15bn in the second quarter. The third and fourth quarters combined saw only 78 deals, raising \$24bn.

But the IPO market has taken off

BY ANDREW MARSHALL

hitting the market. Most - and certainly the most lucrative for the investors - are Internet-related. In February 1998 there were 46 IPOs of which two were Internet-based, according to IPO Reporter newsletter. In February 1999, there were 36. of which 10 were Internet-related. and by the end of February, 28 new Internet companies had filed notice of plans for offerings.

The stock which ended the IPO doldrums was eBay, the online auctioneer, which is one of the few Internet companies to actually make a profit. Its target price last September was \$18 a share and it ended the first day at \$47; by December 31 it stood at \$241.25, up 1,240 per cent.

The Internet frenzy is being fed poured a record \$12bn into new companies last year, according to Ventureone, a San Francisco research firm. Although the number of deals unted for about a third of venture-capital backed IPOs, compared to 12 per cent the year before. In the third quarter of last year, mergers and acquisitions heavily outpaced IPOs, as larger technology companies bought out Internet startups, but now the direction of movement is back towards public offerings. The results – for investors, venture capitalists and the companies con-

These deals have shown some extraordinary performers, such as iVillage, a women's network. The company doubled the expected starting price range before it launched, and even then the stock ended its first day up more than 230 per cent. It sold a 16 per cent stake to raise \$87.6m.

MiningCo.com, an Internet search service, earlier this month raised its expected share price from \$12-\$14 to \$23-\$25, an indication of the scale of the demand. It priced at \$25 last week, and started trading at \$55.

Most Internet stocks have débuted up more than 100 per cent on their first day, and the trend is for the price range to be doubled before launch. Priceline.com. which sells financial and travel services, became the latest on Friday last week, raising its price range to between \$12 and \$14 from \$7 and \$9.

There have been plenty of stocks in there for eager investors: Cheap Tickets, a Hawaii-based airline tickplunged as the market collapsed at et re-seller, Market Watch.com, a fithe end of the year, Internet startups nancial information site, and many their appearance in coming weeks include some established companies floating off the Internet-related arms of their business, attracted by the growing frenzy. Barnes and Noble. the large US bookseller, and Ber-from their offering prices. But it is telsman, the German media company, are to offer shares in their online joint venture, Barnesandnoble.com, and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette Securities is floating part in the retail market at the starting



Stephen Paternot and Todd Krizelman saw their firm the globe.com surge to a record premium on its first day's trading Neville El

of its DLJdirect online trading ser- price would have lost money on IPOs around \$2.5bn. It is emblematic of may be losing momentum: vice. One of the latest to file is taken as a whole last year. Most of topjobs.net plc, a British-based re- the gains - and most of the demand cruitment advertising company.

The apparent attractions of these tutional investors. stocks for individual investors have especially amongst the day traders who devote their lives to the market. The dozen or so Internet offerings that have already priced this year have risen an average of 200 per cent worth pointing out that there are plenty of risks as well. Few individual investors were in for the kill on the first day. Investors who bought

now - comes from the large insti-

The IPO market is almost comstocks at the moment, raising some questions about the market's broader strength. Other IPOs like the management recruitment firm Korn/Ferry, or the fruit company Del Monte, have performed much less impressively. Eleven deals are set to come to market this week; but five are held over from last week. Pepsico's Pepsi Bottling Group is among them, and it is planning to raise

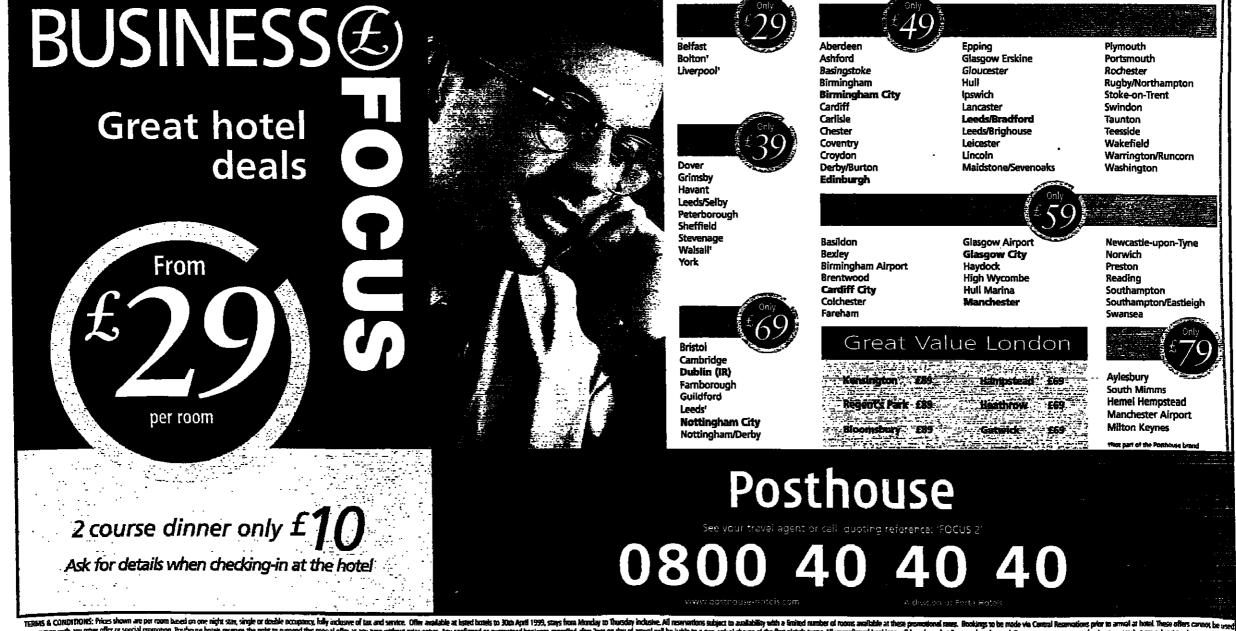
the market's problems that it may go with less than a bang. Of seven IPOs last week, five - all Internetrelated - soared; the other two Ducati Motor Holdings and Delta Galil Industries) hit tro

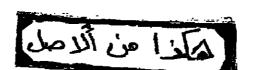
The attractions are clear, when the deal works. The venture capitalists get a huge return on their investment; the institutions which buy the stocks make a fast killing, and the individual investors who take on the stocks have a reasonable expectation of stunning gains. When Broadcast.com goes up 250 per cent in its first day, everybody is happy, but not every

stock follows that pattern. The boom

though the figures for last w launches look spectacular, they down from average gains of r than 200 per cent earlier in the

Hanging over the market is That was in part the result of I oversupply, coming at a time demand was sloping off and cor was rising about the rest of world. Non-Internet IPOs as ready having to postpone dea there are more than enough net deals in the pipeline this ye make for a busy calendar: the tion is whether there is the





THE IN THE PROPERTY OF

rofits are rocketing and dividends are rising. But shares are plummeting and it's just fallen out of the FTSE 100. So is Greg Hutchings' Tomkins just a fashion victim - or are there fundamental flaws with a company that makes everything from Hovis bread and Mr Kipling cakes to Hayter lawnmowers and Smith & Wesson guns?

The outsider

BY TERRY WILKINSON

DNE could blame Greg Hutchthe £1m-plus-a-year chairman mkins, for the occasional bout

Hutchings cringes at the s to guns" tag that Tomkins has landed with because of its ownip of Mother's Pride on the one and Smith & Wesson on the But he is even more exased at the lack of appreciation n by the City.

has a point. The financial record of Tomkins has been st unrivalled since he joined in Profits at what began life as a Midlands maker of fasteners buckles have grown from £1.6m 83 to an expected £500m this Employees have soared from o over 60,000 and dividends to holders have grown at a comnd rate of 15 per cent.

nd yet, Tomkins' share price has i put through the mangle. In the 12 months the shares have thly halved back to levels seen ers ago, and Greg Hutchings and joy has been removed the FTSE 100 index.

Thy is Tomkins so unloved? its growth this year will be less in previous years and the k market is expecting only a Il increase in profits for the year $ay \sim to a$ little over £500m - alugh dividend growth is expectto be a solid 14 per cent again. ut that is not the reason for nkins' near demise. Partly it is estion of stock market fashion st all the conglomerates that gated the market in the Eightre gone. Some, such as Hanve broken themselves up. Or, fliams, they have re-inventelves – in Williams' case as otection and security com-'R has been swallowed up, an effective break-up, by Even GEC, which once oarl companies as avidly as its

Tind the moment when Total began to lose its fan club, one it go back seven years to its acquon of the Rank Hovis Mc-Doughread, cakes and grocery groutHM). The market never liked £970m deal and it has punished company's share price

1.00

200

- 101

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eagl æ "Totors these days are looking for inseed focus. Tomkins is really that of the great diversified conglerates," says Andy Chambers of Securities.

They fashion has not passed Tomkiy, Since 1997 it has sold more 1.20 businesses and tried to perde investors that it is "focused' three core areas; construct. components, food manufiring and industrial and

autome engineering. In Dinber, the company finally manago escape from the leper-



Greg Hutchings, Tomkins' chairman, is exasperated by the City's scepticism in the face of his empire's financial track record

like diversified industrials sector of a flood of negative judgements. the stock market and was re-classified as an engineer. Little good it has done them.

There is also the problem of Smith & Wesson's smoking gun. Product liability lawyers in the US have been limbering up for action. In a case in New York, which ended in February, a jury said that Smith & Wesson was not negligent in the way it distributed its guns, although some other gun manufacturers were. Out of seven cases against gun makers, only one has resulted in damages - of around \$500,000 - but municipal suits are pending in New Orleans, Atlanta and Chicago,

Smith & Wesson accounts for less than 1 per cent of Tomkins' profits but a jumpy stock market may fear

Tomkins' longest-established, but in the UK probably least wellknown, business is its £1.2bn construction components division, located entirely in the US. It now takes in grilles, air conditioning louvres,baths, showers and acrylic whirlpools, together with PVC

recreational vehicles. Doubts that there is any synergy between such a disparate clutch of activities are countered by Tomkins' assertion that a large number of these products all end up on, for example, US recreational vehicles, so it is a one-stop shop for customers in this growth market.

RHM is clearly a major player for

Tomkins. It is the UK's largest flour

plumbing products and wheels for

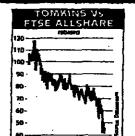
miller with a 28-per-cent market share, bolstered by the addition of two mills from Dalgety last year Despite a relentless series of "Bread Wars" waged by the major supermarket groups, it has got behind its Hovis brand, which is the UK market leader lifting sales by 50 per cent in the past five years.

Through Mr Kipling, Cadbury's Cakes and Lyon's Cakes it holds the top three brands with over 20 per cent of the £1bn-a-year UK cake market. Plus, RHM is a brand leader in groceries.

Tomkins has also been visibly flexing its manufacturing muscles. Since 1992 it has lopped 26 per cent off the head-count in milling and baking and cut its unit-operating costs by 13 per cent. Its reward has been a 60 per-cent-rise in profits since 1994 in food manufacturing to £160m, and a fattening-up of profit margins to 9 per cent.

Successful marketing campaigns have rejuvenated Tomkins' traditional brands from time to time in the UK, but the option of turning. say, Mother's Pride or Mr Kipling into global brands is not realistic. So Tomkins' food operations have also been hitching their wagons to the growth areas of the food market and expanding their overseas baking activities in France and Belgium

Long-standing relationships with Marks & Spencer in cakes and now chilled foods have been strengthened to include Whithread. Fast foods have also given Tomkins an indirect presence outside the UK as



Chairman: Greg Hutchings Employees: 66,000 1**998 turnove**r: £5bn 1998 pre-tax profit: £500m Market capitalisation: £3,25n Activities: Engineering 33%; food 33%; components 28%; professional, garden and leisure 5% Consumer brands: Hovis, Mother's Pride, Lyon's Cakes, Sharwoods, Smith & Wesson Industries, Rank Hovis McDougall, Gates, Stant

£360m for Stant, a supplier of windshield winers and fuel tank filler caps, and in 1998 it topped up its automotive portfolio with the £155m acquisition of Schrader-Bridgeport, which makes fluid controls.

Tomkins' US engineering companies all have substantial shares of their chosen markets, and the product ranges of Stant and Schrader-Bridgeport can be fed into Gates' well-established global network to supplier automotive makers around the world.

Down the road there are further opportunities to consolidate the automotive component supplier base and improve profits. The problem for investors is that this gives Tomkins a schizophrenic image. It is hard to believe that fund managers have views about the relative attractive. ness of food manufacturing and automotive components – let alone whirlpool baths - that coincide exactly with those of Tomkins.

they would prefer to invest separately in major suppliers and adjust their holdings in each one as market prospects changed.

There's not that choice with Tomkins. "We believe that the offer to buy back shares is a recognition by the company that the option of continuing to operate Tomkins as before has run out," says Arend Dikkers of Salomon Smith Barney.

In other words, Tomkins is under pressure to decide whether it is an engineer, a food manufacturer or a maker of whirlpool baths.

With a market worth less than two-thirds of the level of its £5bn sales base, and healthy profit margins, there is a chance that others may make the decision for Tomkins since, despite the Smith & Wesson factor, the huge cash flows from RHM could entice buy-out or break-

THE PLAYER: PHILIP SWINSTEAD, CHAIRMAN OF PARITY

We want to lead the world in e-commerce

Lives in bury, Berkshire. Drives silver Asylartin DB5 convertible. Hobbieshude collecting classic cars and fing his vineyard in the South ofnce. A keen sportsman, he enjoyaying cricket, golf and skiing Fived OBE for his contributiorhe UK software industry. Totalary/fees in 1997 of

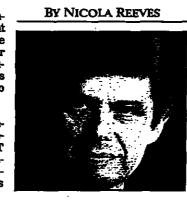
CHALLGE: To repeat the success of past five years during which Pa's market capitalisation

PERSOL DETAILS: Aged 56. has grown from £2m to around £300m. Mr Swinstead says companies "always have to have a vision." He predicts that electronic commerce will be a major boom sector "We are throwing our hat into the e-commerce ring" he says, and forecasts Parity "will be one of the leaders in the western world."

> CORPORATE BACKGROUND: Mr Swinstead has been described by industry insiders as "the great guru of the IT services sector". He has ex-

garnered from his 40 years in the industry. He led the management buy-in to create Parity in 1993. He had founded and run SD-Scicon for 22 years, turning it into one of Europe's largest software services companies. It was sold in 1991 to EDS, part of General Motors.

STRATEGY: When Parity was created five years ago its clear strategy was to create a significant IT business with two arms: international IT solutions and a high qualtensive knowledge of the sector ity IT staff agency in the UK. This



was achieved in 1998 with the two divisions producing combined revenues of £290m. Mr Swinstead says Y2K issues and the impact of the euro are "not major factors". He is confident western air traffic control and nuclear systems will not fail as a result of the date change. He anticipates problems with some accounting, billing and City systems. Parity is back on the acquisition trail after a quiet year in 1998. Three businesses purchased in the previous year were successfully integrated into the group. "We have a very clear

says. He would like to broaden Parity's geographic coverage in the US, outside its base in New York There is also thought to be scope to acquire some niche businesses in Continental Europe in areas such as training and consultancy.

a sole supplier of dough bases to

And, with the purchase of Gold-

en West Foods last year, the com-

pany has become the top UK

supplier of buns, drinks, sauces

and distribution services to Mc-

Donald's Restaurants in the UK and

garded Tomkins as a serious engi-

neer. It has since built up a £1.6bn

industrial and automotive and en-

gineering arm to match its food

the watershed acquisition of Gates,

a global, US-based supplier of au-

tomotive and industrial transmis-

sion belts, hoses and connectors.

The following year Tomkins paid

The process began in 1996 with

manufacturing operations.

Until 1996, few would have re-

mainland Europe.

Pizza Hut in the UK and Europe.

MANAGEMENT STYLE: Relaxed. The management of the group is a er computer software companies team effort, says Mr Swinstead, who spends much of his time on strategy, assessing the future direction of the company and any Mr Swinstead is highly regarded.

idea about who we want to be", he possible acquisition opportunities.

MOST ADMIRES IN BUSINESS: Philip Hughes and his Logica companies Mr Swinstead rates bighly include Admiral and Druid.

CITY VERDICT: Parity does not enjoy the lofty ratings seen by largsuch as Logica. This reflects the lower value placed by the City on Parity's staff agency business. But

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Welcome to London: Tony Blair himself is expected to greet delegates to the annual meeting of the European

Bank for Reconstruction and Development which throws its annual bash in London next week. Doubtless he will be too polite to mention the bank's massive losses in Russia. The bank is refusing to disclose the condition of its loan book, describing the matter as "secret".

Sell the euro: In January, it seemed every analyst in town was telling us to fill our boots with euros. Since then it has been all one way in the wrong direction: German politicians demand interest rate cuts: sell the euro. War in the Balkans: sell the euro. Now the prospect of an interest rate cut in Euroland has provoked the standard reaction: sell the euro. Where are all the geniuses who were telling us in January to buy the euro? Crafting more drivel, no doubt.

Life is a cabaret: Paris rocked as JP Morgan threw a splendid party at the Musée des Arts Foralns to honour those attending the Inter-American Development Bank annual meeting. There were expensive cigars, clowns and even a carousel. Could this be a sign that the party's back on for emerging markets? One cynic wasn't so sure: "It's hard to tell which are the clowns and which are the bankers," he said.

Online bankers: The introduction of e-mail at Coutts allows customers to send provocative messages to their managers. One customer, infuriated by

reports that the bank had extended a £4m overdraft to the Queen Mother (right), received his

comeuppance, however, when an e-mail whistled back insisting that there was "no truth at all" to the recent stories.

Licence to print money: Whoever said it was impossible to make money on the Internet? British physicist Laurence Godfrey has so far filed info highway libel actions against companies and individuals in the Australia, Cana-Zealand and his winnings are mounting. Now he has managed to persuade Mr Justice Morland to allow him to proceed against Demon Internet. which carried an allegedly libelious posting on an obscure Internet news group. falsely purporting to be from Godfrey himself. Upstanding though Godfrey certainly is, the decision opens the possibility for potential litigants to anonymously libel themselves. and then to turn around and sue every internet service provider within reach of a writ.

canary@excite.co.uk

Who is the biggest noise in the music industry?

Paul Conrov President.

Virgin Records, UK

IF I had to pick out one individual who works for the entire industry, it would have to be John Deacon, the director-general of the BPL He's always working for the overall good of every company. He's not in the most glamorous end of the business, but does his job with style and

John has achieved an enormous amount over the years, in particular his work with the Government. But the record industry has many talented people. I really admire the Artist & Repertoire people who discover and make records and am extremely lucky to have two such individuals within the Virgin organisation in Ashley Newton and

Richard Griffiths

BMG Entertainment

International, UK and Ireland The music industry is becoming increasingly more competitive as a business. These days to be an outstanding leader in music, you not only have to have the ability to spot talent, and develop and manage the artists you sign, but you also need to be a savvy business person. EMPs Ken Berry is someone I admire for his ability to combine a charismatic and personal touch with his artists with a keenly astute business sense.

He's a 'babyfaced killer' negotiator, and someone who is willing to put his neck on the line for something he believes in. Two of his best moves in the last few years were to sign Janet Jackson and the Rolling Stories. This business is about taking risks and being decisive about what you believe in.

As a manager, Ken trusts his people and is very good about letting them get on with their jobs. Additionally, I admire the fact that his wine cellar is even better than

Managing Director, Revolver Music

A MAN in the industry I very much admire is Tony Wadsworth of EMI. He is a very moderate chap and a negotiator with a light touch. There are some difficult issues which crop up in music which can bring companies into confrontation so, obvi-

ously, his light touch is a good thing. Paul Burger should be mentioned purely because he brought Celine Dion to the world. And also because he's an extraordinary man. One day he's bound to become the boss of Sony Worldwide. He's not at manner. I think he'll prove to be a long-distance runner.

Finally, I'd like to mention Rob Dickens who has progressed from the bottom to the top. He was a firm hand at Warners when it needed it and is now chairman of BPL About two weeks ago set up his own label

– Instant Karma. He handles the difficult issues with judgement and reason. It may seem like the entertainment business is all fun, but there are constantly knives at our backs. He manages to work through the chaos with dignity and humour. The one quality these three all have in common is vision. That's the most difficult commodity to both find and



The man in the industry who particularly stands out for me is Nick Phillips of Warner Music. In music industry terms, at 35 years old he's very young to be such a high-profile executive, but I think that he's heading up a new school of record executives. His open style of management. is vastly different from that of the old school which tended to be far more autocratic. His lack of ego is refreshing in our particular arena and also. I think, endears him both to his colleagues and competitors. He is a very clear thinker who rarely shoots erator which is important in this fastmoving business You'd expect

anyone successful in the music busi-

alds a whole new era of executives.

Jeremy Pearce Chief Executive

V2 Music Group The apparently freewheeling music business is actually dominated by the five major record companies big businesses answerable to shareholders and therefore employing corporate administrators as chief executives. Fortunately this leaves a niche for independent companies like V2 which can make up in creativity what they lack in financial by from the hip and is a considered op-more creative people. Although he recently tried to pinch one of V2's key people, I still believe the best any major record company, but has grows and is nurtured. But Td

International. Universal is the world's largest music company since its takeover of PolyGram last year. To satisfactorily combine the two companies' cultures and rosters of artists is probably an impossible task, but Jorgen is the best person to have a crack at it, being not only a superb polyglot business administrator with international perspective, but also someone who-

understands music and has respect for his subordinates. The most accomplished leader in the UK independent sphere has to be Martin Mills of Beggars Banquet, who has experience of the entire music business and would grace music executive in the major sphere always chosen to remain indepenness to have an astute musical brain is my old boss, Jorgen Larsen, who dent. He has recently been instru-

is Berry Gordy Junior, who started his career as songwriter for Jackie Wilson but went on to establish the finest independent record company of them all. Tamla Motown, at one time the world's largest blackowned corporation, the like of which won't be seen again.

Chairman, Creation Records

Were I to have to chose the people I admire most in the music industry, I would chose the ones who possessed a relentless vision of music and the sub-culture from which it rather not soare any thoughts for the music industry really. It de-

mensely: Lincoln Elias from So S2. He's a black guy and has d incredibly well considering music business tends to be both. ist and racist. It's incredibly harr anyone to make their mark a times it seems to be run by pu schoolboys. However, Lincoln because ultimately you're judge who you sign and whether you records. It's a business in which hard to be consistent and yet coln is. Lincoln's genius lies it complete love of music.

John Kennedy Chairman and Chief Executive

Universal Music UK Ltd. One man I particularly admire ir business is Rob Dickens who been chairman of Warner and is chairman of Instant Karma, wi has only been in existence for a ple of weeks. He has ended up: highly regarded senior player in record industry which I would is an ageist one. He's shown you stay young and that age isn't r vant and that such a broad rang experience can only be a plus. best use he's put his experienc is as chairman of BPI where h shown a level of professionalism be proud of. Certainly I am hap that there will be a slight rest from his direction while he builds

his new company.

Alan McGee of Creation is a w respected player in the independa sector of the industry. He's got tense entrepreneurial skills whi have enabled him to build up l company from zero with tens pounds rather than millions to wh is now a company with an impre sive empathy with its artists. And d livering to us in Oasis one of the mo significant Brit bands for a long tim just when we needed a shake-up.

<u> 250</u>

Tony Wadsworth

President and Chief Executive EMI Records Group UK

To paraphrase the Clash, a lot what we do is "turning rebellion in money". From a business point view, I admire executives who ca build up a business and manage t commercial aspects of the job, wh protecting, preserving and pr moting the vision and integrity of I artist - like Chris Blackwell w Island Records and Bob Marley, Ahmet Ertegun with Atlan Records.

There are also people who m aged to do that successfully wit the context of a larger organisat such as John Hammond at Colu bia Records and George Martin Parlophone. As the business gr all learn a lot from their examp think Ken Berry of EMI Recor Music manages to cultivate creative freedom within a large

At its worst, the business seem to be a collection of oppo interests – record company, ar manager, lawyer, retailer, etc. it works best when there is a sh purpose, teamwork and res The artists manager or repre tative can be crucial in helping happen, so I have huge respe Roger Davies who manages this across a host of major as like Tina Turner, Janet Jackson Cocker, M People and many of

INTERVIEW SALLY CHATTEN

BOOK OF THE WEEK

A vital survival guide for managers

by one of my larger competitors. But it is difficult to refuse an early opportunity to read the scripts of a truly remark-

time too. This is the book the sections, and an easy read. It computer industry has been longing for, to try to establish just how you did it. To my pleasant surprise

the book went further than just detailing how Dell has achieved such meteoric growth. It is what I believe an honest account of Michael Dell's business philosophy. Anyone buying the book as a history lesson might be a little disappointed.

It's not Michael Dell's count of events at Dell Corporation. Instead it is a solid full of tips and advice based on Dell's approach and culture. I found it practical and useful.

(HarperCollins, £19.99)

to derive useful lessons from Thanks Michael, about it. The book divided into two is not full of technical jargon or industry-speak and you won't need to call any computer technical support lines, to be put on hold for hours, just to find out the meaning of yet another industry TLA (three letter acronym).

In the first section Michael describes the growth of Dell from the cradle to a \$18bn juggernaut. But rather than detail the growth purely for the interest of business historians, memoirs, nor a detailed ac- he uses each step to pass on a wealth of business advice. It is not simply a case of "I did management survival guide, this" and "We did that", it is more of "We did this and what

we learnt was ...". I found his open writing I would challenge any self- style had me glued to every



I found myself jotting ideas in my diary with a view to insti-

gating them in my business. The second section is a collection of Dell's viewpoints and techniques for building partnerships with his employees, customers and suppliers. I found this section very interesting and couldn't agree more with the majority of the content. In particular, propelled business person not page and on many occasions two things struck a chord,

firstly the importance of information flow through a business and secondly, how Michael Dell is using the Inhicle but to conduct customer In every business book I

read, I always try to find the one sentence or paragraph that really stimulates me to change or challenge something I do in my own organisation or one I can bring up as a topic in management meetings. This book presented me with dozens of tooics. Three useful subjects cov-

ered in the book are: ■Keep it simple, complexity

You have to constantly question everything you do, and You need to engender a sense of personal investment in all of your employees.

I also found a great analogy to help explain how the Internet fits into the bigger picture with customers. The Internet is not a substitute for

but adds that it does augment the sales rep's function

"The relationship is similar ternet not just as a sales ve- .to that between a customer and a bank. For major transactions, customers want to talk to a real person: other times, they're happy to use an ATM." I find little more interesting and stimulating than to read books by authors who have themselves been successful in business.

Sure, you can glean information from authors who are great strategists and theorists, but unless they have experienced the "doing it", their ideas and viewpoints lack both passion and depth.

If you also judge the quality of a business book from how useful it is, I am sure that you will find Direct from Dell has you scribbling down notes from cover to cover. STEVE BENNETT

The reviewer is the founder of Software Warehouse

MY FAVOURITE RESTAURANT

Too good for business

CLIFF STANFORD first went to La Tante Claire before he founded Demon Internet in 1992 with just £20,000 of startup capital. "It was a real splash-out," he says. "I wanted to treat some friends to what I considered to be a meal in the best restaurant there

A year on from having sold Demon for £66m, his visits to the traditional French restaurant remain occasional.

It gets booked up far too early for him to be able to plan more than a once-a-vear visit there from his home in Brus-"it's far too expensive and far too nice to take business peo-

on the food and its spectacular presentation that you probably wouldn't get any ousiness done." Not only this, but but he

finds the intimate atmosphere is not conductve to confidential business talk, "Some



sels. "And frankly," he adds, of the customers - and this is what is really special about Tante Claire - will lean over and tell you, Tve just had "You're so concentrating such-and-such and it was ab-

solutely wonderful'."
Stuffed pigs' trotters remain one of Stanford's enduring memories of dining at the 23-year-old restaurant, which moved from its former home in Royal Hospital Road. Chelsea, to space in the 2003)

Berkeley Hotel last ye Though trotters are so thing given away in m butchers' shop, he says, th particular trotters were " nomenally good". The 44-year-old entrep neur who now concentra his energies on Redbus vestment, the seed-cap company he founded at selling Demon, says Tai Claire's waiters are partilarly helpful, describing dishes in detail and always

> The menu he adds, been different each time has visited - but it is alw spectacular.

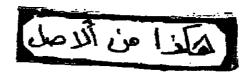
periment

couraging customers to

As he says: "It's more of eating experience than place you go when you!

NAOMI MARK

La Tante Claire, Berkelt Hotel, Wilton Place, Londo SW1 (Telephone 0171-82



Stock-taking time for the Pep phenomenon

drawing to its normal, frantic lastminute rush, it seems a good moment to stop and make some observations about the whole

body at the time the first PEP was Investment trusts have also benelaunched in 1986 could have forephenomenon would prove to be.

As Nigel Lawson makes clear in his memoirs, his motive in introencourage direct investment by individuals in UK company shares. He was not sure whether they would help to boost the country's savings rate, or merely move money from one home (such as National Savings) to another.

As it happens, PEPs have done little to promote direct investment in equities: single-company and self-managed PEPs remain but a small part of the overall PEPs market. Instead, after a shaky start, what PEPs have proved to be is a

means by which the unit trust vestors has been both positive business has succeeded in rein- and enduring. What it demonventing itself, beyond its wildest possible dreams.

Most of the huge flow of funds

which have poured into PEPs in re-It is fair to say, I think, that no cent years has gone into unit trusts. fited, but to a lesser extent. Other seen quite how successful the beneficiaries of the PEP business include IFAs (many of whom have grown fat on the back of PEP commissions) and the financial press, ducing FEPs as Chancellor was to which has enjoyed the fruits of the heavy advertising which now routinely accompanies the end of the PEPs season.

So it is fair to say that PEPs have been a powerful factor in changing the landscape of the personal financial business, but not quite in the way that was originally intended.

As the PEP business has coincided with one of the greatest bull markets of all time on the stock market, it is impossible to deny that the net impact on many ordinary in-

strates also is that when it comes to savings most people rightly like to keep things simple. They like the tax benefits of PEPs, of course: but what their behaviour over the last 13 years shows also, I suspect, is

that they also like two other things. One is a freedom from hassle. One reason why most people prefer to hold shares through the expensive medium of a unit trust rather than some more costeffective alternative is that they simply cannot be bothered with all the hassle of owning shares

They are happy to pay over the odds for the privilege of having most of the hard work done for them. (This may also explain the fact that so many prefer to wait until the very last minute before doing anything about their annual tax-free allowance.)

The second thing is that most people still prefer to be sold



JONATHAN DAVIS

The impact on many ordinary investors has been both positive and enduring

something rather than buy it happy also to take on trust the in-themselves. Most people still don't plied claims (all based on past perfully realise quite how expensive unit trusts are. .

key features documents, with their accompanying reduction in yield tables, it is remarkable how resilient sales of some of the most expensive unit trusts have been...

There is also a clear correlation between recent performance and sales figures, as those with off periods in recent performance (such as M&G and apparently more re-cently Schroders and Perpetual) can testify to their cost.

Given that past performance is such an unreliable guide to future performance, it is clear that what that they are simply not confident enough to make their own

They are bappy to be guided by IFAs in their choice of PEPs, despite the evident distortions introduced by the commission system, and

formance) which they read about in the advertising. I don't think anyone Even since the introduction of could foresee the emergence of

brands of this kind when the PEP business started. At a deeper level, what this behaviour points to is a continuing lack of education in the basics of money and financial

ernment's noble intentions in trying to promote wider understanding of financial issues. It is also trying to help savers help themselves with its Cost Access and Terms (CAT) standards for the new ISAs which will replace PEPs next year and with its proposals for cheap many people are signalling is stakeholder pensions. Nobody can take issue with its diagnosis of the problem nor, I am sure, with the

sincerity of its objectives. The history of PEPs is a salutary warning, however, that things rarely go according to plan when governments start trying to muck

ket works. This Government has not got off to the best of starts: its proposals for ISAs are not very well thought out

They are too complicated and open to an obvious criticism, which is: "Why muck around with the PEP formula when it has clearly been shown to be what the market wants?" The cynical answer, which This is what lies behind the Gov- is that every new government prefers to have its own, better mousetrap, is probably painfully

near the mark. What we have to wait to see now is whether the industry is prepared to pick up the ISA ball and run with it. By insisting on low charges for its CAT standard, the Government is posing a direct threat to the profitability of the business.

It will be interesting to see how many firms are confident enough in their brands to bypass the CAT standard - and how many of their customers will go with them in that

Should you invest in... clothing " retailers?

INVESTORS WHO adopt the principle that it makes sense to invest in the providers of products and services that they see people actually buying on the high street will at present be avoiding the clothing retailers. For this group of companies has under-performed markedly over recent months, primarily as a result of depressed levels of spending on

"The market has not been very good over the past six months or so." reports Rowan Morgan, a retail analyst at stockbrokers Teather & Greenwood.

"This is partly because consumer ending is low and partly because there is not enough differentiation between the clothing retailers. They have been concentrating on the safe, middle ground."

There remains, however, a place for clothing retailers within a portfolio, according to David Thornton, vestment Trust. "We have been emphasising general retailing for some time and have big holdings in Next of the market is beginning to take and Debenhams," he points out. "However, you can't escape the fact good value to be had, predicated on that general retailing has been beaten up very badly over the last year, for obvious reasons. There has been a slow-down in the economy, with a generally low-inflation environment and tight-fisted consumers."

Clothing retailers are, indeed, dependent on the willingness of consumers to keep buying their ares and this demand has been sorely lacking in recent months, leading to a classic case of oversupply. "The problem is that there is too much retail space," says Rowan Morgan, "at a time when there is low inflation, so prices have been at best flat, or even slightly down. It is going to remain a highly competitive market."

Dominating the sector is the fate of Marks & Spencer, for years a core holding in many a private investor's BY KIERON ROOT

portfolio. "The problems at Marks & Spencer are the big issue," Mr Morgan adds. "How Marks repositions itself, in terms of brand, quality and price, is the key factor. The company has diversified - 40 per cent of its UK business is now food retailing - but the food side slowed down in advance of the rest of the business. The question is, at what point will Marks start to recover?

"Some companies have screwed up, like Marks & Spencer, while others have tripped up like Next." opines David Thornton. "But the overall result is that there has been a lot of doom and gloom around. This has resulted in a considerable de-rating among these companies."

Such a de-rating, of course, creates opportunities. "We have adopted the view that we can see how things are going to improve," Mr Thornton adds. "For some br have been firm believers in a soft landing for the economy, and the rest this on board. We think there is some the basis that the consumer, having been out of the market for some time, is now coming back."

Stock selection, however, is the key. "We remain quite selective in this area," he points out, using the example of two of the bigger clothing retailers, Next and Arcadia Group, to illustrate the point. "Next has been a very successful company that has been very focused on one been the way it has managed its in- consumer spending." ventory over the years, yet even Next got a season's ordering wrong

The situation with Arcadia is that, despite its size, it does not have the same strengths of brand and management as Next. "Arcadia has improved," says Mr Thornton. "But



The problems at Marks & Spencer - once a core holding for private investors - have highlighted difficulties in a sector suffering from over-capacity David Rose

historically it has been in a situation where it has had to discount to get higher volumes and, in doing so, its margins have been squeezed. Its brand, with excellent long-term vol- brands are less strong than Next's, umes. One of the key factors has and it is dependent on the health of

Rowan Morgan suggests that while Arcadia has been suffering from the general lack of demand from consumers, Debenhams has been one of the more successful retailers while Next has been benefiting from the problems at M&S. "Debenhams has done rather

phasis on exclusive brands," he says. "And Next, which recovered from a blip in 1997, is doing very well now. When Marks comes back, Next. will find life more difficult."

Concentration is on the larger stocks, since smaller clothing retailers are even more at the mercy of consumer confidence.

"Among the smaller companies, Oasis Stores should carry on quite well, but I think that clothing retailers generally are going to have Morgan says. But there is a reaparty season starts.

"Further out, I think that during the third quarter of this year, and more especially the fourth quarter. we will probably see sales improve as consumers start spending more,"

The consensus view of the sector is that things will get better as consumer spending improves, but that Investor

better than the others with its em- some stonking good weather," Mr this will not necessarily mean a bonanza for all clothing retailers. "We sonable degree of confidence that are in an improving retail environsales volume will pick up towards the ment, and things have got better in end of the year as the millennium recent months," David Thornton confirms. "but the tide might not bestrong enough to raise all boats. We continue to place a premium on management and the brands. You have to be selective, so it is Next and Debenhams over Marks and

Kieron Root is the editor of The

Storehouse at the moment."

SHAREWATCH BUY

Although GKN should see a slowdown in their core automotive division, the stock's growth profile can ride on the back of the continued success of the industrial services division and positive news from the aerospace and special vehicle division, says BT Alex Brown, which has upgraded the shares (956p) to a buy. The stock justifies a target a share price of £11, the broker adds, Improving prospects for the industry sustained growth in earnings and a relatively modest rating make Northern Leisure shares (134p) are very attractive, argues Teather & Greenwood. The market for nightclubs is very fragmented, giving it ample scope to grow at the rate of around 15 sites a year, predominatly purchased from independent operators. Each acquisition costs £1.5-£2m, a 30 per cent return is targeted and contribution to pre-tax profits from a new site is around £200,000, adds TG.

SELL

Avoid Cortecs (21p), says Sutherlands, which points out that an independent report into its scientific programmes is due shortly. The biotech company commissioned the report last year after it announced its three lead programmes were not as advanced as had been indicated. and also undertook a review of its systems and pipeline to try to reduce cashburn itself.

HOLD

South African Breweries 20 per cent-plus outperformance meant that the shares (570p) have exceeded the initial price objective of 530p, says Merrill Lynch, which has now cut its intermediate recommendation to neutral

NO PAIN, NO GAIN: OUR MAN'S PORTFOLIO

You can bank on reaping the rewards of conversion

not to force them to face the rigours of a stock market quotation, it is, perhaps, worth looking at the rewards of those who have voted for

So far, five building societies have become mortgage banks quoted on the stock market. Alliance & Leicester, Halifax, Northern Rock and Woolwich abandoned mutuality in favour of becoming public companies with shareholders instead of members in the past couple of years. Abbey National is the granddaddy of the converters - electing to become a stock market company in 1989.

Many investors cashed in when shares were floated. Those who on have not fared too badly in share price terms and have reaped the rewards of increasing dividends plus special payments.

Abbey gave its members 100 free shares and sold them others at those prepared to run the risks of 130p a time. So a price of 1,278p with the share market with useful gains.

AS REMBERS of two more building a 1,358p peak is not a bad reward for societies are urged by their directors ten years' dedication to the former building society.

Alliance arrived at around 550p, has been as high as 964p and, at the time of writing, resides at 855p. Halifax started near 730p, went to 977p and is now 775.5p. Northern Rock has moved from 460p to hit 668.5p and is now 511p. Woolwich's journey has been from near 300p to just above 400p. The shares are now resting at 387.5n

Abbey's performance supports my advice that an investor will not come to much harm by giving a sound blue chip a long run. After all, that is the philosophy of most fund

The others which opted for demutualisation have, quite clearly, not been around long enough to make any contribution to the long-term argument for blue chips. Still they have, in varying degrees, provided



DEREK PAIN

The Halifax reorganisation has come in for some ill-considered criticism. With its coffers overflowing. it is handing out 62p a share, reducing the number of shares in issue by killing off three out of every 40 and paying a 13.5p dividend. It has also indulged in a £1hn share buyback which has yet, however, to pro-

vide much in the way of tangible benefits to private shareholders. The five mortgage banks will

also feature in the consolidation of the financial industry. Many are convinced it will not be long before a big deal materialises. At times the speculation has

been intense - although a mega deal is still awaited. Rumours have already linked Abbey and Halifax with National Westminster Bank and/ or Barclays and Lloyds TSB is piling up cash and will need to make a predatory strike shortly. The mergamong continental banks will merely add flame to the smouldering fires of corporate activity.

Of course, cash rewards are only part of the conversion argument. Certainly shareholders fare better than members when it comes to totting up the loot.

Building societies promise many benefits from mutuality, such as cheaper mortgages and higher in-

terest rates. I find it surprising that has at least allowed Hardern to these alleged rewards seem to have, in the main, materialised after the conversion bandwagon started to

Those of us who obtained mortgages in the near mutual monopoly which existed in the 30 years before Abbey converted certainly saw little evidence of the "members first" attitude which is now, it seems, the theme which dominates a society's

At present, two societies are under attack from the converters. er fever which has broken out Bradford & Bingley, where 70 members are urging the switch, and Britannia, where the controversial and ubiquitous former butler Michael

Hardern has popped up. Britannia, probably because it is facing what it regards as the COIIfinable challenge of the eccentric, arch carpet-bagger Hardern, has adopted a relatively measured, uncircular to members. Still, Britannia

stand for election as a director others refused Bradford & Bingley has got itself into quite a tizzy and the presenta-

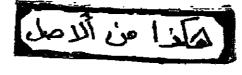
tion of some of its literature against the conversion proposal is aston-Its voting form is remorselessly geared to encouraging a "No" vote and members are offered the

"Bradford & Bingley should remain a mutual building society working in the best interests of its members both now and in the

following loaded resolution:

It is surprising that such a partisan voting form is permitted in these politically correct days when any hint of bias is jumped upon.

I would, however, be surprised if either society converts. But quite clearly the pressure is mounting on the mutuals which seem to be adoptruffled but one-sided approach in its ing some odd tactics in their struggle to avoid the dreaded plc status.



Going for brokerage in cyberspace

YOU MAY be among the thousands seduced by Apple's advertising into buying an iMac in five fruity flavours, or perhaps you have purchased one of any number of PC clones in a out immediately at the price specishade of beige. No matter. Virtually all the personal computers being sold come with Internet access as part of the package, including modem and software.

So you have Internet access and of stockbroker may be limited but how do you choose which to use? Remember, all the online dealing services available are execution-only, which means that what you choose to buy and sell and when you choose to buy and sell it is up to you alone.

Among US broking houses, cheap online deals were pioneered by E-Trade five years ago. It charges a minimum of \$14.95 for trades in shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange and \$19.95 for over-thecounter shares on Nasdaq. But E-Trade is not the cheapest. Ameritrade's prices start at \$8 a deal and Suretrade at \$7.95.

is not as price-competitive. Competition among brokerages is limited and stamp duty of 0.5 per cent is also payable on dealings. In some cases Internet deals are not even cheaper than alternative methods, specifically trading over the telephone. But it can be a convenient way of managing a portfolio of investments.

Charles Schwab Europe, has moved into online electronic trading. Guy Knight, vice-president of European marketing, said: "UK brokers have already chased each other down ahead of automation. This is a way of maintaining those low prices - it is not going to get exceptionally cheaper

On the surface, the lowest price on offer to UK customers is offered by Cave & Sons at £5 plus 1 per cent up to a deal value of £5,000. But this is an e-mail service only. It competes with Xest, James Brearley and Fastrade. Their minimum dealing charges are £20, £20 and £15 respectively. You may specify a limit price at which you wish to deal with these services, to make sure you don't end up buying or selling at more than you wish to pay or less

BY ROBIN AMLOT

to say, if the trade cannot be carried fied it is cancelled. Brearley and Fastrade accept limit orders for the day before cancelling them if they are unable to fulfil the trade.

Stocktrade, a division of the Edinburgh-based stockbroker Brewyou are ready to invest. Your choice in Dolphin Securities, was the first

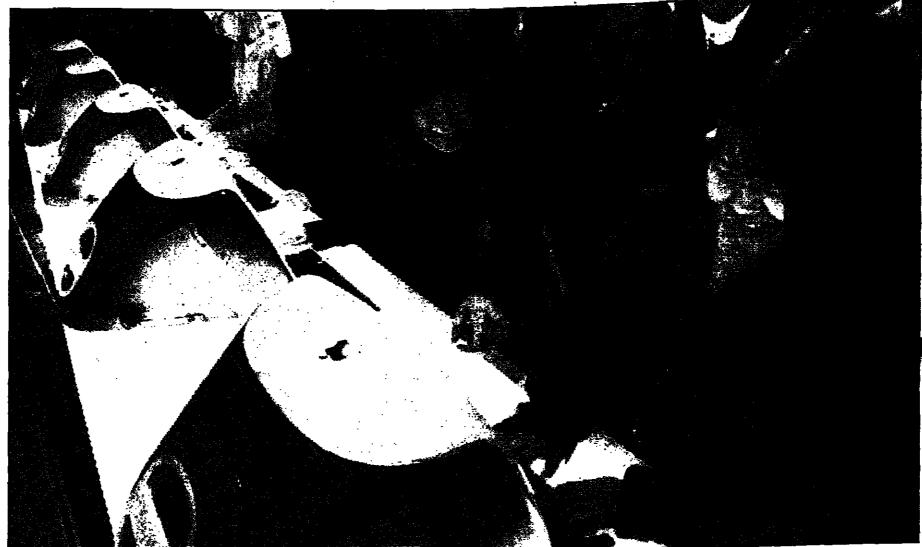
> The systems behind Stocktrade were developed with assistance from Interactive Investor. The chair, Sherry Leigh Coutu, described real-time trading as "a significant move towards a democratic marketplace, giving private investors an equal footing with the institutions and making the market healthier for

It takes about two weeks to set up an account with Stocktrade. Once registered, you pay £25 per trade up to a value of £12,500. You also pay an annual Crest Sponsored Member-Trading on the Internet in the UK, ship service charge of £25. Trades are settled on a T+1 basis, which means you take delivery of the shares or the cash is put into your account the day after you deal. When you trade you will be given 15 seconds to accept the price offered before the quote lapses.

Charles Schwab Europe offers two services. Frequent Traders Club and Market Master. The Frequent Traders Club has a £15 connection fee and costs £60 a year in "membership" but each trade thereafter is a flat £19.50 no matter the size of the transaction. There is a £25 oneoff connection fee but no annual subscription charge for Market Master and trading costs start at a minimum of £15 or 0.9 per cent on deals up to

Barclays Stockbrokers' service expects to have more than 10,000 customers before the end of 1999. It offers the first online service which does not require you to hold your shares via a nominee account.

Phillip Bungey, research and de-Stockbrokers, says: "Independent research has shown that the majority of investors still prefer to deal with certificates than with a nominee



Apple's iMac, like virtually all new personal computers, comes with Internet access as part of the package to attract online investors

tificated Internet dealing service." You also have just 15 seconds with Barclays Stockbrokers in which to accept or reject a price quote. The minimum dealing cost is £17.50 or 1.5 per cent on trades under £5,000.

The firm is also trumpeting its Price Improver system, introduced in November, which it claims should improve the price you get as buyer or seller Philip Bungey says: "Via velopment Director of Barclays our system, all the main market makers in any given share are scanned to ensure the best price at any given time. Other online services link to only one market-maker and But Xest accepts limit orders so we have responded to this de- we have proved that 50 per cent of only on a "fill or kill" basis. That is mand by providing the UK's first cer- the time our system will ensure a

better price." Signing up to the Stocktrade or Charles Schwab Europe's service involves sending them an e-mail from their website. They will send you a full information pack by return via the Royal Mail.

You are required to fill in and return the forms with any fees required and the funds needed to open your trading account, and you will be supplied with an access password.

Barclays Stockbrokers is touting its service as the easiest to join with free registration and it takes five minutes for the online credit check. Barclays Stockbrokers' on-screen application form asks for address, credit and bank account details.

What you put in is checked electronically with your bank and against the voter roll to make sure you are who you say you are, Barclays is prepared to offer an immediate trading facility of up to £7,500.

In the fourth quarter of 1998, E-Trade was rated as the world's top online investing site by financial researchers from the Lafferty Group in its web-based Financial Services

But, in February, E-Trade suffered the largest number of temporary breakdowns, which have affected several US online brokerages, leaving many customers unable to trade

HOW TO	TRADE ON TH	
US Broker	Minimum Dealing Cost	Website
E-Trade	\$14.95 \$8.00	www.etrade.com www.ameritrade.com
Ameritrade Suretrade	\$7.95	www.suretrade.com
Online Broker & Website	Dealing Costs: £1,000 trade	Dealing Costs: £5,00 trade*
Barclays Stockbrokers www.barclays-stockbrokers.c	£17.50 co.uk	£40
Charles Schwab www.schwab-worldwide.com	• . •	•
Frequent Traders Club ¹	£19.50	£19.50
Market Master ²	£15.00	£43.75
Stocktrade ³	£25.00	£25.00
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For income, it pays to shop around

SELECTING AN investment for income is a bit like taking the children shopping at a supermarket - shelves full of mouth-watering goodies that junior insists on having, when you know that an apple is healthier.

In investments, having too much money on deposit can also lead to problems with the pounds in the future - but in this case having too few rather than too many.

Those attractive interest rates may look more tempting than the lower rates offered by some other investments but what will they do in the future? A basket of goods priced at £1 in 1948 would now cost nearly £20, so investing for the long-term should involve looking out for capital, not just income.

Not that there is anything inherently wrong with having money on deposit. Emergency funds should be held on deposit and, if you switched money out of the equity markets into cash earlier this year, you would have beaten most investments over that time. Over the long-term, though, other investments should do better. We asked five leading independent

financial advisers for their views. James Bruce, of Colchester-based Corporate & Personal Planning, says timescale is key to many investment decisions. If you have 20 years until you retire, you may have little need for income now, so your portfolio may consist largely of goodquality unit trusts investing in UK shares, perhaps split between track-

er funds and actively managed funds. If, however, you need access to your cash or will do so soon, your BY ANDREW COUCHMAN

money is likely to be on deposit. Only when you can take at least a threeto-five-year view should you look for capital growth. Mr Bruce advises. Taking a short-term view, the Moneufacts faxback service provides a list of current top rates.

Mark Dampier, of Churchill Investments, based just outside Bristol, says: "Base rates could fall to 5 per cent or below over the next 12 months. With the best deposit rates at around 6 per cent now, we can expect to see top rates fall to about 4.5 to 5 per cent in the near future. So investors should start to plan for this now and not wait until it happens."

If you need a yield of more than 9 per cent, Mr Dampier's tip is to look at split-income shares of investment trusts. These are likely to involve a capital loss on redemption but the Exeter High Income Unit Trust yields around 9.24 per cent, can be put into a PEP now or an ISA after 5 April, and has capital growth potential.

Slightly lower yields come from the M&G High Yield Corporate Bond, at 8.5 per cent. Aberdeen High Yield Bond at 9 per cent and Aberdeen Fixed Interest yielding 8 per cent. If you are looking for an income of between 5 and 8 per cent. Mr Dampier likes the look of corporate bonds, especially Credit Suisse Monthly Corporate Bond, yielding 6.7 per cent and CGU Monthly Income Plus at 7 per cent. With-profit bonds are also on the

kept to 5 per cent. Scottish Widows is one he fancies.

David Burren, of the Cheltenhambased Warwick Butchart Associates, says that the cautious investor could look at the Fleming Save & Prosper Extra Income fund, again ISA-able. This balanced fund invests 55 per cent in mainly blue-chip shares, 40 per cent in government and corporate bonds and 5 per cent in cash. It at present yields 4.7 per cent.

What about guaranteed income bonds, now offered by a number of insurance companies; can they offer an alternative to equity-based invest-ments? Up to a point they can, says Danby Bloch, of the London adviser Raymond Godfrey and Partners. There are two types of such bonds. The first simply pays out a fixed income, from one to up to five years, and repays your capital at the end of the term. Returns are not very exciting but, if interest rates do fall, as many now expect, they could look attractive.

The second type is more complex but offers a much higher return. Scottish Life pays an "income" of 9 per cent a year for five and a half years. The downside is that your capital is only returned if the average of the FTSE and Swiss stock markets rises by, on average, 5.85 per cent a year.

Mr Bloch says he is not comfortable with such plans, preferring an open-ended investment and more flexibility. The bonds are popular though with many people but you are gambling on what stock markets will do over the next few years.

agenda, especially if withdrawals are financial advisers Holden Meehan, nual management charge of 1 to 1.5



The sweetest-looking investments may not always be the bealthiest for income in the long term Edward Webb

suggests another option for the investor looking for income. If you have used up your PEP and Tessa allowances, or you are unable to invest in the next few days, you could consider an offshore investment bond.

There is nothing illegal about offshore bonds, they are just another financial investment," she says. Many offshore insurers are subsidiaries of well-known UK firms.

The higher-rate taxpayer gets the advantage of a tax-free roll-up and can take out 5 per cent of their investment every year for 20 years with no immediate tax liability. The trick is to encash such bonds in a tax . year when your income is very low as you must pay tax on all gains at your then highest tax rate.

Charges are comparable with mainland insurers at 5 to 6 per cent Amanda Davidson, of the London for the bid/offer spread and an an-

per cent. Offshore bonds are at the exotic end of financial services and do require expert advice both before investing and during the bond's life. The key with all such investment choices is to ensure that you look carefully at both the investment itself and at your own income needs both now and in the future.

Churchill Investments: 01934 844 444; Corporate & Personal Planning: 01206 853888; Holden Meehan: 0171 404 6442; Raymond Godfrey & Partners: 0171-250 0967; Warwick Butchart & Associates: 01242 584 144.

■ 'The Independent' has produced a free last-minute Guide to PEPs. The 28-page guide by personal finance editor Nic Cicutti also explains the new Individual Savings Account. The guide is sponsored by Scottish Widows Fund Management. For your free copy call 0345 678910.

ISAs are ready for take-off *

FED UP WITH all the last-minute PEP hoopla, the endless exhortations to invest now before this wonderful tax break disappears for good? By the time you read this, it

will be almost too late to start a PEP. Not to worry - you can set up an Individual Savings Account (ISA) instead. As far as tax is concerned. the rules for ISAs are the same as those for PEPs: exemption from capital gains tax, freedom from income tax, but with the diminishing benefit of dividend tax credits, which drop to 10 per cent from April this year and are abolished in five years' time. Even so, investors seeking a first-time tax-free haven for their cash are best off looking at ISAs.

So what are the ISA investment rules? In 1999/2000, one may invest up to £7,000, and £5,000 a year in subsequent years. This compares with a maximum of £9,000 into regular and single-company PEPs, plus 29,000 into a Tessa over five years.

Permitted investments in an ISA will be far broader than under the old PEP/Tessa regime. PEP rules specify that up to £1,500 of the annual £6,000 allowance for a full PEP can go into "non-qualifying" funds. The rest must go into UK and European Union equities and bonds. ISAs will have up to three components: equity, cash and insurance. The equity part will be allowed to hold "any share traded on any recognised stock

exchange anywhere in the world". What this relaxation of the rules will allow is far wider choice of asset allocation. If you want to invest your whole annual allowance into, BY NIC CICUTTI

say, an emerging markets fund, you will be free to do so.

Fund managers plan to take advantage of this rule change. While they will be offering in ISA form all the funds already available as PEPs, they will also be offering previously "unPEPable" funds too. Investec Guinness Flight, for example, is preparing to offer 14 funds, including its Global High Income fund previously not even available as a non-qualifying PEP fund - through an ISA account. This invests in mainly Western government bonds.

Another important difference is that ISAs will be permitted to hold a far wider range of fixed interest securities such as UK and foreign corporate and government bonds. With the exception of UK gilts, all of these must have five years or more until maturity when bought into the ISA, but can be sold out of it at any time. Any gain on such a disposal will stay "inside" the account free of tax.

Over the shorter term, gilts, National Savings certificates and cash deposits with less than five years to maturity can be held in an ISA. Onedistinctive feature of ISAs will be their use of CATmarks. The aim of these is to ensure a "fair and reasonable deal".

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Applied to the cash and insurance elements of ISAs the CATmarks will indicate low minimum premiums, few penalties, and surrender values reflecting the value underlying assets in an account

MY BIGGEST MISTAKE: TIM TOZER

The Rottweilers made sure we never got the Jags back

made was to let two cars go without seemingly come in to us to indicate letting the hard currency hit our that hard currency had been lodged bank account. The cars were a in a third-party bank, who were in Jaguar XJS (right) and an XJ40 sa- the process of getting the money to loon, which would together retail at our bank account. I let the cars go about £70,000.

It was the first business where I was the managing director, and my first overseas posting and to be hon- to find the cars, but he eventually est there was a level of naivety and trust - I had been there about four or five months and assumed I could not going to go in and get the cars take things at face value. Inevitably - there are lots of Rottwellers." We when selling cars, you were dealing wrote them off, and it was a salutary

MY BIGGEST mistake hap- with some bad guys who wanted to pened in Finland: the mistake I pay you in cash. The paperwork had in good faith. It was an expensive learning curve.

We did hire a private investigator saw the cars in a compound in Moscow, and his report said: "I am



would have been easy to take from

lesson, because it was a loss- that experience that the people I was making business at the time. It selling to were not to be trusted. The real issue was that, within the

Tim Tozer, 39, spent 10 years with Royer before joining Inchcape. He left Chrysler France last January to join Mazda UK Ltd as managing director

business, we didn't have a robust enough process by which decisions could be made in good business faith.

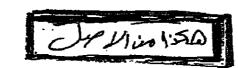
What I principally took from it was that at a cursory level, an MD could look at a piece of paper and seemingly make the right decision, without the absolute rigour of a process which would have prevented that paper getting to my desk without the monies already being in the account.

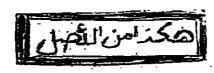
It had a massive impact on me: it was a defining moment. It got me to focus on the fact that if you have solidity of process in a business, and if the detail is gone into - in the sense of the managing director having a prerogative to challenge detail where he wants to - then I think you

have a solid context for the management of a business against a consistent performance criteria.

If expectations are laid out in a

controlled environment, we are better able to measure how the business where you can give individuals a where you can give individuals a clearer context to develop their own to the clearer context to develop the clearer context to develop the clearer context to develop the clearer context to is doing. You come to a platform take responsibility to do their was thing within a process-oriented en vironment, and to come up with exact ceptions which might well be dult good ones as an alternative to the bedrock of process the bedrock of process.







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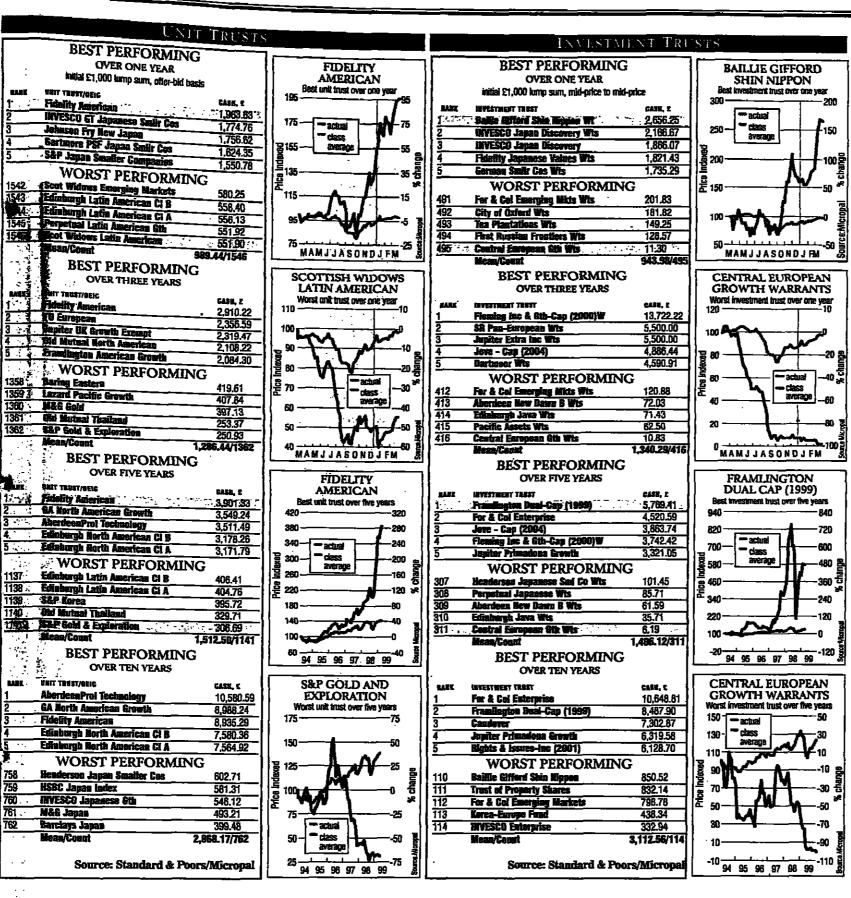
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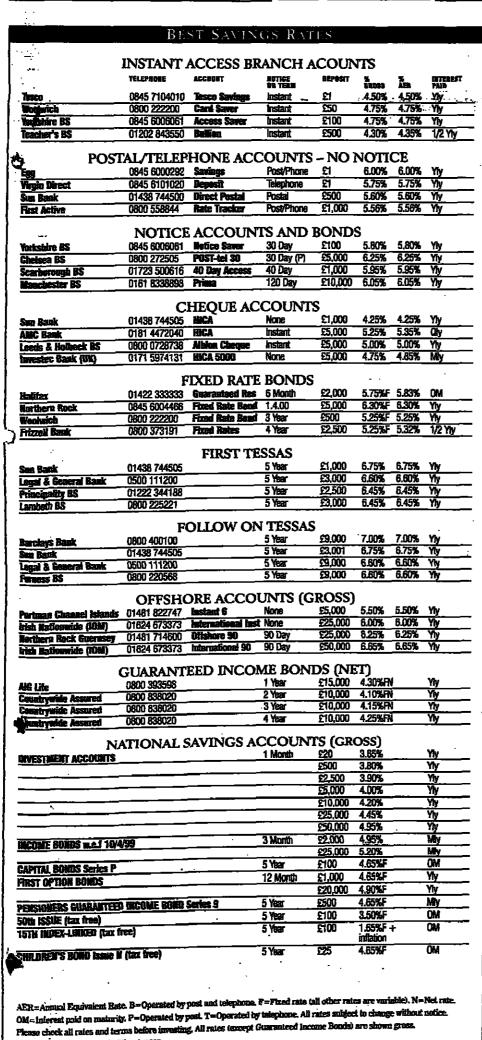


				
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Source: Greenwich NatWest



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Canada Life Friends Provident	7,247 6.918	8,063 7,722	9,235 8.872
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Source: Baronsworth Investment Services

Source: MoneyFacts

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THE INDEPENDENT 31 March 1999

BUSINESS REVIEW

Head of Administration & Logistics



The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is a component Institute of the Natural Environment Research Council, We are currently looking for a new Head of Administration & Logistics for our headquarters in Cambridge. To undertake its research mission, BAS employs over 425 scientists and support staff, and operates two research vessels and alreraft of Antarctic capability.

You will have line management responsibility for 240 support staff with an infrastructure budget of £22 million. You will be expected to plan, co-ordinate and manage the BAS annual field programme, including ship and aircraft schedules and emergency response planning. You must be prepared to advise the Director on financial strategy and manage the overall finance activities, including five year business planning, costings, submissions and in-year control. You will overview the procurement process and direct the infrastructure planning including major capital projects. You will also oversee recruitment, training and development activities, and advise the Director on personnel matters.

We are looking for wide experience of administration at a senior level, combined with a good background in finance and

procurement. You must be able to demonstrate high quality personnel management skills, and be able to undertake operational planning and strategy in support of Antarctic research activities. If you can make crucial decisions that will influence future strategy and provision of logistics in support of long-distance research activities, then BAS welcomes your application.

Cambridge

BAS would expect you to take up the post in the late summer of 1999. The nature of this role normally involves visits to Antarctica,

For further details and an application form, please contact Katie Boreham, Personnel Officer, Natural Environment Research Council, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 1EU, Tel: 01793 411542. Fax: 01793 411585, F-mail: ceb@nerc.ac.uk The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 16 April.

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If you are interested in applying for the above position please write to Stuart Walker, enclosing a CV, at Ashurst Morris Crisp, Broadwalk House, 5 Appold Street, London, ECZA. qu



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YOU CAN'T help but be grateful to whoever came up with the concept of stress. It's surely one of the finest inventions of our times. Can you imagine a bunch of medieval peasants throwing down their shovels and pitchforks and announcing they were suffering from burnout?

Of course, people had lower expectations then. As far as they were concerned there were only three things you could be: alive, dying or dead. But mere existence isn't good enough for us anymore; we expect to be amazingly well all the time, and if we're not we do something about it. "We need a holiday. Let's spend some of that race of our villa, looking down over

bonus money that's about to turnble into our bank account," said Jame once she'd sorted out the problems with her boss. "See if you can take one of the weeks with Easter in it." I laughed

Didn't she realise they would have been booked up months in advance? But she just laughed right back and told me not to be naive. "Only senior managers dare to book time off at Easter or Christmas," she said. "No one else will because they think it doesn't look keen enough.

Luckily, she was right and now

Kingston and drinking Blue Mountain coffee. Quite how Jane managed to pull off a booking at such short notice. I'm not sure.

"Last-minute cancellation," she says. "Supermodel stubbed her toe and couldn't travel. Something like that, anyway."

Bad luck for her, brilliant for us. Strawberry Hill is the sort of place that's written up in the glossy magazines with breathless reverence. and is even nicer in the flesh than in the photographs. It seems an rsult to call it a hotel.

The villas are so submerged in greenery and gardens that half the time you feel you're the only



THE TRADER

it's good to have a City job - lots of money, but no one knows who you are people around. "Just as well, reality." Jane says. "I feel a bit square staying here. If use can hardly drag compared to some of the other

She's referring, I think, to the couple we saw as we arrived: him with goatee and crochet skullcap. her with long blue hair and a nose stud. They just had to be stressedout music business executives. "Do you think we seem as strange to them as they do to us?" I asked Jane, but from the way he was whispering to her and looking in our direction with an "I am not looking in your direction" expres-

sion on his face I had my answer.

Otherwise, we haven't really

staying here. If toe can hardly drag ourselves away from our villa, presumably they all feel the same, particularly the famous ones.

Even better, I've realised it's the first holiday in ages where there hasn't been an off-duty futures trader with a hyperactive mobile on the next balcony. Money talks, but some of it talks quieter than the

"It's at times like this," I say to Jane as we sip our drinks, "that you appreciate having a City job. Lots of money, but no one knows who you are. I'd hate to be a celebrity and have my picture in the tabloids

Jane agrees with me on that one and then tells me she's hungry and we should have dinner.

We find ourselves on the table next to the music-business couple who are vaguely looking in my direction. Suddenly he starts and nearly drops his drink, and I can hear him say, "It is, I tell you, it is." He stands and comes over shyly to our table. "I'm sorry to bother you." he says, "but there's this column in The Independent called 'The Trader'... I'm a big fan. Your profile... you look just like her. Are you?" And I blushed and said yes. Well, it's nice to be recognised, isn't it?

Fat Cats can be key to success

BY JON MOYNIHAN

EACHYEAR, as the annual reports begin to roll in, the "Fat Cat" compensation debate starts again. At PA Consulting, we believe this issue suffers from confusion between two questions:

Is there an optimal form of compensation scheme for top management that will maximise value for shareholders? in "efficiency" question.)

If top management receives enormous payouts as a result of the compensation scheme, is that necessarily a bad thing? (A "justice" question.)

We believe - based on client experience and extensive research - that shareholders should ensure their companies operate a top management compensation scheme that is efficient and just.

The Efficiency Question What is the optimal top management compensation plan? Over the past year, PA has conducted surveys in 11 countries to undever the characteristics of companies which create top it is still less than one in four. levels of shareholder value.

The first finding was that our veyed companies had widely different levels of shareholderreturns over several years. We reached an unexpected conclusion. The most important factor associated with superior shareholder returns, was whether the

company adopted a "Managing for Shareholder Value" (MSV) approach to its top management compensation policies. The chart (above) shows that the average company which follows an MSV approach to its top management compensation has more than 6 percentage points of additional shareholder return, compared to the company

The chart also reveals that fewer than 1 in 10 companies follow such an approach. This finding is consistent across all our surveyed countries - with the exception of the US, where

The impact of the correct compensation approach across our surveyed countries - is enormous. The average annual shareholder returns of the company that embraces best practice in this area is almost 20 per cent a year, versus

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companies who reject that. Over 10 years, an investor putting £10,000 into a basket of companies following the right approach would see a return of similar amount into compa-

nies following the opposite

approach would get £34,000.

Managers of institutional investment funds are considered superstars if they can beat the market annually by two or three percentage points a year. Institutional investors need to build a "Code of Compensation Conduct" that ensures their company follows that approach. For example:

Ensure the company pays high variable compensation. A bonus scheme that allows managers to earn substantial bonuses - potentially rising to many times base salary - has an even larger impact on shareholder value. Ensure the company pays less than 14 per cent a year for below-average salaries in se-

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The greatest fortunes are always made by the strend and of major business tracks.

nior positions, relative to what is paid in the industry. We found the impact on share price of paying high versus low aries was three percentage points of shareholder return per rear – an enormous amount, Ensure bonuses are contin-

gent on shareholder results. The more top management interests can be aligned with those of shareholders, the more likely it is that shareholder returns will be maximised. Incentive programmes should focus on factors directly under the individual's control (value drivers), rather than on the overall share price. But the company should identify what £60,000. An investor who put a management actions lead to share-price maximisation.

The recent wave of companies which reward managers on a measure of "profits minus a charge for capital" has led to enormous improvements in shareholder value, optimising profits and use of capital. Ensure the company reviews its salaries against an an-

nual industry-specific pay survey. Investors should know Ensure a percentage of annual bonus is paid in long-term bandcuffed shares. This will build a class of managers who have a large shareholding in the company, and strongly motivated to ensure the share price



Jon Moynihan has found that lower top salaries and performance bonuses can benefit shareholders too

■ Ensure the company en- The Justice Question courages top management and Is it fair when top managers other staff - to have an ownership rather than an employee mentality. The most important thing is not the way in which you get people to be share-

you do it. whether this step is taken and Ensure the company pays what is done with the output. non-executive directors in Top managers of high-borus shares. Companies with many large shareholders on the board are more likely to increase shareholder value. The board will then focus more aggressively on its number one objective - to maximise share price over the long term.

earn enormous sums from

compensation programmes? Our research implies that companies which place no limit on what managers can earn do holders - it is just the fact that far better by their shareholders than organisations that limit the annual compensation package.

companies draw anger when newspapers run stories decrying the large amounts earned. its executives, it is less likely to We should care if a manager earns a large package when shareholders see a poor return. But if shareholders have

done well (and the national eco-

nomic "cake" has expanded), is it wrong if managers also receive spectacularly large compensation packages? Capitalism 's underpinning of companies owned via shares traded on stock exchanges, is a successful mechanism for increasing

the benefit of a country. a compensation programme that has a strong potential upside for create value for shareholders. The reason is probably that insufficient incentives exist for managers to take the difficult but management and technology valuable decisions that increase

economic value and benefit, for

share price. "Fat Cat" executives of large companies are not in need of particular protection. Most probably they will continue to earn large remuneration packages for some time, whatever the degree of outrage.

But some aspects of these compensation packages are important if we are to have panies, even if other aspects. such as high fixed salaries, are counterproductive.

Jon Moynihan is executive chairman of PA Consulting, the consultancu.

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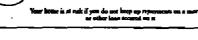
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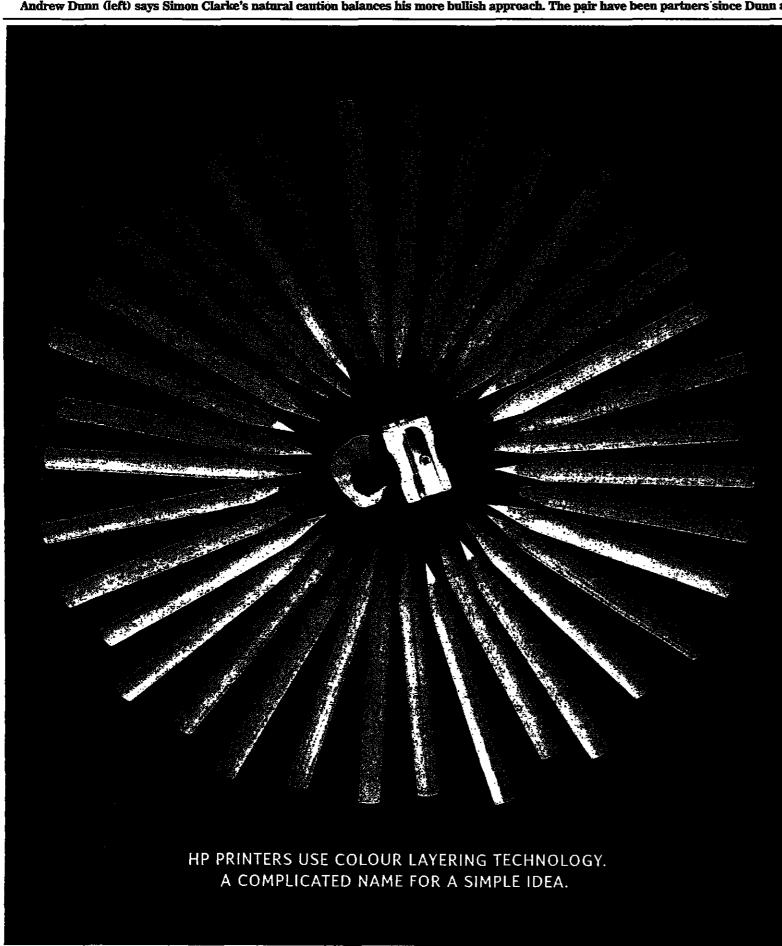
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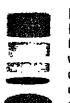
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ME AND MY PARTNER



Andrew Dunn (left) says Simon Clarke's natural caution balances his more bullish approach. The pair have been partners since Dunn asked Clarke to look at his accounts, which were in a 'shocking state' Mark Chilvers





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had been skiing before university and thought I would like to set up a ski company. I went to college and everybody laughed at me. But I am an obstinate person and it was blatantly obvious it could be done better. Back then, chalet holidays were completely different. I was 22 and highly motivated, and the first year of business was pretty exciting, but there was a relatively steep learning curve. I spent a year researching it all: I went to the Alps and did surveys on three different-sized companies. I found out people's likes and dislikes to pinpoint what they wanted on a holiday.

I distinctly remember meeting Simon when he arrived to see his sister, who happened to be working for us. He had dricounts were in a shocking state. I said to Simon "Can you take a look and prepare the books for the auditors?" He realised it was a little bit more than just a run-through. He said "Listen, one way is to join you and invest in the business." That's exactly what he did, and became the full-time finance director.

At the time, every brochure had some pretty blonde girl on the cover. We said, how are we going to be different? We did a totally black brochure, and that immediately got us noticed.

We had a loyal clientele, but we realised we had to expand if we were to have a good living. We've ended up with the cream of the ski resorts and some of the best properties. My grandmother taught me that you should always buy the most expensive, because generally it's going to be the best. There are some little things we have always done when nobody else would go to such lengths. It's the fluffy bathrobes and the postcards which are there in your room, the toiletries in your bathroom and the bottle of water on your table. Our greatest asset is our staff. We now have 14 in Lon-

don and 57 overseas. We got hit hard during the recession, and kept thinking, how deep can we dig into our own pockets? Then we took on board a whole new series of shareholders, from bankers to barristers. We weren't going to fail through lack of effort. I would take it as a personal insult if someone said they had had a bad holiday. I would be devastated.

Our non-executive chairman and I have always been the builish ones, but Simon was confident we would get through the difficult times. Simon always sits and listens, and then comments. I will talk confinually without necessarily having thought of every aspect or eventuality. He is naturally the cautious partner

We have never advertised have to make sure every single holiday is excellent. It has always amazed me how travel to hand-sign every letter. Also, were no memos, and we could Simon and I know everything react very quickly. When we set that goes on in the office, which up, there weren't many regulais open-plan. It's important tory barriers, and a lot of people that you can overhear what people are saying.

My role is increasingly managerial, taking an overview of term view. He was the first to travel industry is fierce, but no one is really doing cooks and more than anything but that nannies. We are transferring the Alps to the summer, and that's hugely exciting. You want to be with your children, but had the same idea of what we could achieve. He has the enerequally you want to read a book by the pool or play tennis. We have never fallen out. I am more hot-headed and he

would never lose his temper. I think he chose to work with me because he saw the possibility of being part of something know most of the people who which could grow and be successful, to which he could conven out to the Alps in a black tribute - a chance for him to more and some of those things TVR car. I have always been make his mark. I have infinite might well have been very sucgood at running the business trust in Simon, and you know cessful, but I am always a little

MOM When I met Andrew, I was working in the up an optical business, and myself and my brothers were to be drawn into it. But in 1989, the business was bought by Boots. I was working as an auditor and knew it wasn't really

My grandmother taught me that you should always buy the most expensive, because it's generally going to be the best'

what I wanted, though it was nice to see how other companies worked. Andrew is a brilliant front

man, but I think it was getting a bit lonely. Some of the backroom books and processes were being neglected. That's my strength, and I decided to go straight into it. I thought it was an opportunity I couldn't miss. I knew Andrew pretty well - my sister and I shared a house and after that first ski season, we got talking. It was an exciting business to be in, and Andrew was very enthusiastic, very inquisitive, and doesn't mind asking anyone a question. even if it's an incredibly stupid question. He's always getting knowledge from people and finding out how things work, then he stores that information away. Years ago, when he was up in Scotland with friends. they nicknamed him "Harry Keen". Lots of people know him as Harry now, He's always been the buzzy one.

One of the first things I did on arrival was to say that the company cars had to go. Until you actually look from afar at a business, you can't see these litthe company: word-of-mouth is far better, and that is why we tish and I hate paying bills, so we try and get value for money.

The great thing we had, in a small company, was to be able companies would send out letters which would say, "Dear and implement it. I loved that in-

NDREW DUNN: I Client". In the early days, I used formality and flexibility. There were setting up so they could go skiing and perhaps make a few bob. Andrew already had a longproducts. Competition in the sacrifice his holidays to get the company going. He loves skiing wasn't his intention in setting up. He had the vision, and we both had the same idea of what we gy, and I follow in his footsteps and back him up with a bit of

> We could have blossomed very quickly, but we both agree that it is still a niche market, and we have controlled it. We

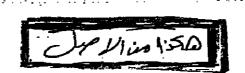
Andrew would take on a le might have one good year, but if a downturn comes, you need spare capacity. I have instilled in Andrew that every single bed City: my father had set is not just a guest - it's money. We have paid for every apartment, so we must get some money for that bed, even if it means discounting. Andrew was very much the gentleman travel agent, and wouldn't discount because it meant somebody in a chalet might have paid more. That's a smashing principle, but economically it's just not viable. Now, he's understood that point and will do everything in his power to

make sure every bed is sold. One of Andrew's strengths is that he listens to people. We have a very fluid office: we go out for drinks together and Andrew and I will empty bins and clean the kitchen, so I think our staff respect us for that. We don't have an us-them relationship. In the last year, we've started to take on different roles. We have come to the point where we have to be much more leader-managers. There are things that happen now that we don't know about, and we're having to move up the ladder somewhat

I am still cautious: we can work very hard and get eyerything super, but if there's no snow, it's disappointing for us and for the guests. I hate have ing that element out of control. Being an accoun I'm neat and tidy, ever negantic, and I like things to be finished off in numbers and

projects. Andrew has been walking to buy and build chalets for severa years, but I have always held off. We are not builders - our strength is running halidays, and I don't think we should be pulled away from that I am keen to concentrate on what we do best. He says it would put a lot of value into the business, but I am risk-averse. We have got a nice lifestyle and we are selling good holidays. My motivation is not to grow number drastically and sit on a £20m company. Andrew might be a little bit more motivated by get-

ting a conglomerate going. INTERVIEWS BY RACHELLE THACKRAY



1980s and the pair VEDNESDAYREVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY







Hell is other people

This estate in Bradford is on the up and up, says the local council. The police are 'cock-a-hoop'. Better still, on April Fools' Day, Jack Straw's new measures will be introduced to outlaw difficult neighbours. Try telling that to the residents with smashed windows and burning trees in the garden

night me that wat abrittlef **网络基本** 新行者 5 pts BOT WESTERS IN really know what to expect. I knew that schiffe, not talking it down." DOLUMBER ILS it used to be twinned with a place merally going was no longer the case. Jack Straw came s be the best here a year or so ago and promised everyone that things were going to get better. Much better. Just as in the song. He is declaring war on neighbours from hell. No long were crime, litter, spitting and antisocial behavor to be tolerated. If the police didn't arrest

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somele, then he just might.
In art, the Revolution was on the way, and it would gin here. Well, this week sees a key date in said volution, though it is a trifle unfortunate that it ilso April Fools' Day. This is when Anti-Social Baylour Orders, also known as Asbos, are to be broat in. These are aimed at outlawing neigh-bours frobell or, as the Home Secretary has put it, town topists. The idea is that the council or police will be for the orders against anyone aged or harasson. Professional witnesses can be

used to preve victims' anonymity.

The orderlike an injunction, but if you are found to be in break of it you can be sent to jail for up to five years. Cithertarians are suspicious, but then they may note next to a bullying horror whose idea of fun is rowing humps of concrete about.

People in Raycliffe do. Or so I had read.

I wanted to'k to some families but thought it fair to call on co-lilors and community groups first. They were all hied on good news. "I hope you are not going to be gative," said one after the other. "Things are III better. Things have turned round." Did I knobout the Tenancy Enforcement Team? Did I rea there was a new lettings policy? At the month minimity meeting on the 1,500house estate the iceman was so upbeat that a two burglaries a dand now there were five a bourhood. It occurs to me that we have all come to

had never been to the Ravenschiffe month. "I'm sorry, but I am cock-a-hoop," be see Neighbours from Hell as something that is a bit whole streetful of people? And what about reprisals? estate in north Bradford and so I didn't crowed. "It is time that we started talking up Raven-

I left, and couldn't help but notice that there was called Notorious, but was told that that a man whose entire job was to watch our cars while we were at the meeting. The main avenue is wide and lined with two- and three-bedroom semidetached houses. They were built in the Twenties of good materials. Most look in decent repair. They have largish gardens. I saw a "for sale" sign. There's a chippie and a corner shop. It didn't look too bad.

I turned off, on my way to meet the first family. Here the rubbish is everywhere, and shocking. It fills gardens and spills on to pavements. In some gardens you cannot see green for the layers of old clothes, food wrappers, boxes, papers, nappies. Ripped bin-bags and bits of rubbish hang from trees as if taking part in some sort of grotesque urban spring. A long-time resident would later tell me that the technical term for all of this was "shit tip". "It's an old English expression," she said, and laughed as I wrote it down.

Many of the houses are empty, with boards for windows. There is graffiti, and a general decay that makes those houses where people have attempted a flower bed or two look all the more pathetic. Suddenly the air is full of smoke and I see that one of the front gardens is ablaze. It is dusk and some boys are running around. They tell me they are burning rubbish but I can see that one is holding a bow saw and another is trying to hide a freshly cut pine sapling behind his back. I drive by several times in the next few hours. Sometimes the flames leap into the night, sometimes they shrink to camplire size.

I am told this is normal behaviour. It takes a long time to find the street and, as I park, I am aware that this could be the last time I see my car. Normally I never think of such things, but this is hardly normal. Perhaps it is the smell of smoke mixed with rubbish, or the children fifting song and dance role seemed sure to follow. Crime round as if they were extras in Lord of the Flies. as down, down, in, he said. There used to be Perhaps it is the eeriness of a half-empty neigh-

entertaining. Certainly on television they all seem locked in hudicrous battles involving hedges or fences or some bit of concrete. But this is no Bernard Ingham escapade. This place feels threatening and alien. Here someone else is in charge.

Marcia and Mike have one of those front rooms in which everything matches. The carpet is plush, the sofas are squidgy. The ornaments are arranged just so. The family photographs are in silver frames and displayed at careful angles. The room is a picture of order. The people in it are not. Marcia and Mike and their children are at the end of their own particular spiral of despair. They have been burgled 11 times and are now too afraid to leave the house for a holiday. They live amid constant intimidation

BY ANN TRENEMAN

though they will not tell me specifics, because they are scared of being identified. I am not using their real names, but they are still afraid. When I ask their daughter what she thinks, she starts to cry and says she hates it; no one will come to her hoose to play.
They explain that they are normal, respectable,

working people and that they feel trapped in a street where most people are not. "We're honest. We work an honest living, don't we? We pay our way," says Marcia. They have lived here for at least a decade and the big problem is that they hought their council house. They are now desperate to sell, but who would buy here? Anywhere else, their house would be worth £40,000.

They see themselves as having two options. One would be to walk away. They did try to give the keys back to the building society after the worst burglary. But voluntary repossession would mean they could not get another mortgage. The second option would be to sell to a property management company. They did approach one; it offered them £15,000.

For now, they are stumbling on. I mention Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and they look at me strangely. How could Orders be brought against a

Even if they moved them off, they would know where to find us," they say. No one has talked to them about using the Orders. I say that they could have professional witnesses. They say that it would be obvious who had complained. They are too afraid and too exhausted. Marcia says she has been on antidepressant tablets for six months and has no plans to come off them. Both see the only answer as the council buying their house so that they can

go away and start a new life.

I am surprised that my car is still there. Next stop is the home of Cathy and Dave. They, too, are the odd ones out on their street. They have had a brick through the window, air pellets, half a dozen bur-glaries, and sleepless nights. There are always kids running around, even at 2am. Lumps of concrete appear in the drive. Their home is immaculate but it is also a fortress. Their dog is wearing a muzzle. "It's intimidation more than anything. When we leave, we know we've been seen," she says. They stagger their schedule. They believe they are always being observed and so sometimes, just to keep these people guessing, Cathy or Dave will drive while the other hides in the back seat.

They have nothing but praise for their MP Terry Rooney, the police and the Tenancy Enforcement Team, though they say that none of these has given them any results. They say that the police are much like me: they sit in the family's front room, commiserating but unable to relax because they are worried about their cars.

Cathy: It's a nightmare here. Dave: I can't invite anybody to this house. The only people who will come are good friends and brave friends. You can't invite people here. It's awful. We are trapped.

Cathy: We are not ashamed of our house. We worked to pay for this and keep it decent. Dave: Our problem is getting anyone into the

Cathy: ...without a brick being thrown. As home-owners, they are trapped; but they also hell are in the vast majority?

seem feisty. "They bloody aren't going to get me down, that's why," says Cathy. I mention Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and she says that she was told she would have to sign an affidavit and stand up in court. I said that that wasn't the case (though the Home Office, when I rang them, could not tell me exactly what was the case). Cathy says that whatever happened, other intimidating types would just take the place of the current offenders. Plus, everone would know who had complained. Cathy and Dave want the council to buy them out. They say that Anti-Social Behaviour Orders may look good on paper, but this is reality.

The next day I meet a group of women who run the advice centre and put on a weekly lunch for people on the estate who otherwise would never get out. They believe that the Orders are the work of Big Brother. Anyway, they don't see why people should let others bully them or push them about. "If you seem frightened, that's when they take advantage," says Pat Quirk, who has lived her: since 1963. The conversation swirls around various subjects: the police attitude to paedophiles, tire fact that someone on the estate has a horse in their garden, the lack of bin-liners. The local housing of icer, Jim Steward, notes that what looks simple in Westminster, in the real situation becomes linked to all these subjects and more.

I fear the Revolution is on shaky ground here. but at last I meet a man named Jim who lives on a different street with a different attitude. He is hopeful, and thinks the Orders could really work. Most of the people on this street are good neighbours. he says, but there are one or two who aren't One man in particular has a foul temper and occasionally explodes in a window-smashing frenzy. The next time that happens, he just might find himself the subject of an Order.

Suddenly, in this house with no fear, I can see how the Orders could work. But that is when the back neighbour is the odd one out. How can they possibly be used to reclaim streets where neighbours from

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Kosovo: heading for a new catastrophe

Sir. Have you gone quite bonkers? ("Nato cannot delay sending in troops to protect Kosovo", 30 March.) How many months will it take to plan the occupation? Kosovo is landlocked. How do you get there? If you fight your way across Kosovo to establish your protectorate, who and what will be

How many casualties will you then accept from Tito's heirs, whose terrorist murders of our troops will make the IRA look like lily-livered jelly-babies? How will you handle Russian and other volunteers" who come to help them?

In any case, your excellent reporting from Kosovo shows that the atrocities are now led by Serb irregulars in ad hoc uniforms. Refugees talk of being driven out by knives, not tanks. Arkan is in Belgrade because the entire Serb population is determined to attack any Albanian they can find. They will delight in butchering our troops maintaining a protectorate. Nato has created a situation in which air power is useless.

Milosevic could not call off the Serb gangs even if he wanted to while Nato air attacks continue. He might or might not be able to do so if the attacks stop now. Nato has put him in a position of supreme authority.

Please engage your brain and think a little. DEREK J COLE. Jesus College Cambridge

Sir: Many political figures, including Tony Blair, have gone to great lengths to stress to ordinary Yugoslav people that this war is not aimed at them but at Milosevic and his regime. In 1995 after the UN withdrew

from its protectorate role in southern Croatia, the world stood by as Croatia ethnically cleansed the Serbs from the Krajina region. Since 1991 Yugoslavia has been suffering under sanctions. The economic environment, partly a legacy of the old Communist system, made worse by the assimilation of refugees, destroyed by sanctions and heavily assisted by poor government, has created an environment where the black market, organised crime and paramilitary organisations thrive.

This atmosphere is not likely to spawn healthy democratic debate and a strong liberal opposition. This dreadful downward spiral is being made even worse by the bombardment. Despite this there remain a huge number of Yugoslavs who do not support the current regime. This was evident by the mass demonstrations in all the major Yugoslav cities eighteen months ago Even the most broad-minded

pro-Western Yugoslavs must be having their patience tested. They are bewildered by suggestions that by bombing them a humanitarian catastrophe will be avoided. They believe they are living a humanitarian catastrophe already, which is about to get seriously worse, and that two wrongs don't make a right. For them this war is no longer about defeating Milosevic; it is now about defending their homeland from a foreign invasion. FRANCIS MAGUIRE London SW19

Sir: The fears expressed by the Chairman of the Macedonian Citizens in the UK (Letter, 29 March) are real indeed. The KLA have as their aim the union of all Albanians of Serbia/Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania itself into a single state.

Tito allowed nearly half a million people to flee Albania and settle in Kosovo in the upheavals of 1948 when Yugoslavia broke with Stalin. This altered the demographic profile of the region dramatically. Corrupt Albanian officials abused the extensive autonomy granted in 1974 to carry out a campaign of intimidation to "encourage" the dwindling Serbian inhabitants to move north.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Ballet School No 3: The girls at the Davies Ballet School in Cardiff wrestle with the more difficult steps

But it's probably "unpatriotic" to point out any inconvenient historical details at such a moment of "national glory". **BRIAN POCOCK**

Nato action is legal

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith (Comment, 29 March) and Ken Coates (letter, 29 March) are incorrect to say Nato's action against Yugoslavia is contrary to international law and the United **Nations Charter**

Article 2(4) of the Charter is not a blanket prohibition on the use of force; rather it limits force to be used for purposes consistent with the UN Charter but does ban force with the purpose of undermining the territorial integrity and political independence of any state.

The purpose of the current use of force is not to undermine Yugoslavia, but rather to ensure that its government adheres to international law and halts the genocide against the Kosovars. Customary international law in the area of the use of force was confirmed by the International Court of Justice as recently as 1986 (see the Nicaragua Case, merits stage, paragraph 176) and this does include the category of humanitarian intervention. International crimes such as genocide are not a matter of internal affairs and require international enforcement.

Had force been used to uphold international law in Bosnia at earlier stage, the events in Kosovo might never have taken place. JOHN STRAWSON Senior Lecturer in Law University of East London Dagenham, Essex

Sir: Although, there is broad support in this country for the air strikes, increasingly people are beginning to question the legality of action against a sovereign state and the consequence of military action upon the population in Kosovo. However, to say that we shouldn't intervene is to absolve

ourselves of a moral duty to protect victims who are helpless. It is morally incumbent upon those who have the power to stop an injustice, to exercise that power. In the same way that I would expect a bystander to intervene when a woman was being mugged on the Tube, I expect Nato to intervene. This principle transcends national boundaries; values like justice are universal; national boundaries change.

Those that believe that the air strikes have exacerbated the policy of ethnic cleansing are absolutely right. But the Serbs always intended to ethnically cleanse Kosovo, which they regard as the heart of their country. If Nato hadn't intervened then we would have had periodic massacres and forced expulsions, with Milosevic using all the diplomatic initiatives that would have followed to play for time.

The air strikes have sent a clear message to Serbia that we won't acquiesce in atrocities. It is to Nato's eternal credit that we have refused to let an evil unparalleled since the Nazis prevail. MOHMED HAJI London E8

UK Serbs in fear

Sir: Whatever view your readers have formed on the rights and wrongs of the Nato action against Yugoslavia, may I bring to their attention the anguish in which thousands of people in this country live whilst the bombs are falling?

Approximately 40,000 people of Serbian origin live in this country, many of whom are married to "ordinary" British citizens such as myself. Since the Nato operation started I have had less than twelve hours' sleep. My wife's immediate family lives in Belgrade, others in Uzice and Nis, names which feature in reports on the bombing

Hours are spent trying to telephone but the connections to Yugoslavia are almost non-existent After two days my sister-in-law managed to reach us to say that they are safe but that a cruise

missile had destroyed a telecommunications centre 200 yards from their flat. (Would the designers stake their lives on their accuracy?)

Now we wait for the next call, the hours filled with triumphant news reports of yet another successful mission or "unconfirmed" stories of atrocities to stir the nation's passions and reassure those who dare doubt. And still we wait. A plane is reported missing. If it is RAF will the nation's anger be vented on British Serbs, whipped up by a media intent on justifying this crusade?

In a war in which not a single shot will be heard in this country and possibly not a single British casualty, would it be too much ask to tone down the iingoism? NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Redraw Balkan map

Sir: Instead of establishing a Nato protectorate, the West should try to build on the idea of partitioning Kosovo, which has been floating in Serbian nationalist circles for over a decade. The map could be drawn to

balance advantages. For example, the Albanians would get most of the territory; the Serbs would get land containing some of medieval monasteries, while the others would be put under the UN protection. The working assumption should be that the Serbian part of Kosovo would become an integral part of Serbia, while the Albanian part would join Albania. The establishment of a Nato protectorate over Kosovo would only freeze, not resolve, the conflict. Only partition achieved by agreement could end the conflict RANDHIR SINGH BAINS

Gonts Hill; Essex Sir: M Edwards (letter, 29 March)

rightly questions whether the concept of the sovereign or nation state has had its day. What constitutes a feeling of nationhood is complex. It may be

having clearly defined topographical boundaries, or a common language, or religion, or a common history. Happy are those such as in these islands where these four factors largely coincide. Unfortamately in much of Europe

this is not so.

Tony Blair should seize the initiative to establish a new Congress of Vienna at which representatives of all European countries including Russia could review national boundaries. BRIAN PARKYN Southam, Warwickshire

Punish war crimes

Sir: It is clearly right to put President Milosevic under notice that his behaviour to the Albanian Kosovans makes him liable to trial for war crimes. But the people of Serbia who keep him in power must bear some responsibility

I suggest that the international community should act as the Commonwealth did with South Africa under apartheid and hit them where it really hurts by refusing to play with them - in this case football and tennis, not cricket and rugby.
Dame ALIX MEYNELL Sudbury, Suffolk

Sir: The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has pledged that all war criminals in Kosovo will be hunted down, arrested and brought before the International War Crimes Tribunal (report, 30 March). Whilst I find this very commendable and appropriate, I cannot but feel a sense of déjà vu. I am of course referring to the promise that the Bosnian butchers Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic were also going to be hunted down and brought to justice. Let's hope Mr Cook is more successful this time. MEHMET CENKTAS London N21

RAF veteran

Sir: Hearing of the Harriers savaging the Serbs reminds me that the aircraft first entered

service 30 years ago on 1 April. It was on time and within its £50m development budget.

By most standards, a service life of more than 30 years is fairly exceptional for front-line aircraft. All the more credit to John Fozard for the airframe design and to Stanley Hooker for its engine, to

mention just two of many.

Repeated improvements in the airframe, engine and electronics fits have produced the aircraft which helped to win the Falklands war and which has taken part in more recent conflicts in its own unique way. Long may it continue. Air Marshal Sir REGINALD E W HARLAND Bury St Edmunds,

Insult from Blair

Sir: If only 1 per cent of the horror the Serbs are being reported as visiting on the Albanians is true it is outrageous. But what is also horrifying and outrageous is that the Serb response to the bombing was completely foreseeable. Do our leaders now expect us to believe that they are going to fly around picking off Serb tanks and platoons, and halting the atrocities that way.

Tony Blair's insistence (Parliamentary report, 30 March) that there is no causation between the bombing and the increase in Serb atrocities is an insult to the intelligence of all British men and STEVE JACKSON London W9

Tankbuster peril

Sir. Can we have assurances from the Government that the US A-10 Thunderbolts will not be using depleted uranium tipped shells to attack Serbian forces in Kosovo? Or are we to have a repeat of the humanitarian catastrophe that has befallen the irradiated population of southern Iraq? DAVID EDWARDS Bournemouth. Dorset

A classic laureate

Sir: I understand that the choice of Poet Laureute will be made in April. It has been claimed that Derek Walcott is "in an older classical tradition, feared to be out of touch with fashionable poetic concerns". This rings an alarm bell for the future of our language.

The essence of fashion is that it is here today and gone tomorrow. Does this apply to the work of Tennyson? Is it "out of touch with poetic concerns" and the number of touch with laureates Hughes, Betjeman, poetic concerns" and therefore the public, to write of a new identity in the post-colonial world for those uprooted from their history, their language?

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Perhaps it is unfashionable, in our present educational climate, to have imbued oneself, as Walcott has, with the "older classical tradition" from Homer through Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth,

There is surely no poet other than Walcott of such deserved international stature or who speaks with such relevance for Britain and the Commonwealth. It has been suggested that the literary academic world cannot accept that the best poet writing in the English language today is black. What a wasted opportunity if this unique concurrence should be

JILL DANIEL Bodmin, Cornwall

The Timor alert

Sir: It was Australian government inaction over the murder of Margaret Wilson's cousin Malcolm Rennie (letter, 29 March), and the four newsmen murdered with him, that was understood by Indonesian generals as Western approval for genocide as a "solution" to the problem" of East Timor.

Indonesia's top generals informed the Australian government on 13 October 1975 that some 3,200 Indonesian troops would invade East Timor from West Timor on 16 October. Some 800 of those troops would go in via Balibo, the Australian government was told. It was at Balibo, on 16 October, that Malcolm and the others were killed.

The Australian government's latest report on these deaths was published in February 1999. As Ms Wilson's letter says, that report is both "limited in scope and flawed in execution". Equally serious, that report ignores the fact that the Australian government was warned of the attack.

British failure to act, now, over these deaths risks further genocide in East Timor from its illegal occupiers. **HUGH DOWSON** United Nations Association Western Region

Time for reform

Sir: I cannot be the only person who felt disorientated on Sunday morning after losing an hour's sleep, but who was grateful for the prospect of lighter evenings. Nevertheless, I feel that permanent British Summer Time would not be appropriate because of excessively long dark mornings in Scotland, and the loss of October's extra hour in bed would be hard to bear. May I therefore suggest that the

country adopts Greenwich Mean Time in the mornings, and BST in the afternoons? The clocks could go forward after lunch and back around 2am. This would reduce the working week (currently far too long for most people) and give everyone an extra hour in bed every night. Evenings would be lighter, and mornings not too dark in winter. Why has nobody thought of this before? JOHN PARKER London N3

Free press

Sir: The article describing the shenanigans at the press awards evening shocked me profoundly (Media, 30 March). How can I ge/ tickets for next year's event? RICHARD COLTART London SW18

God's recipe for squid, and other red herrings

I AM constantly being deluged with joined together by a little link letters from readers who are intrigued by the changes in meaning of the English language, and want to be kept up to date with new words and new definitions. Rather than make a fool of myself or confess ignorance, I prefer to enlist an expert, and that is why I have waited until Dr Wordsmith dropped in on his way to the pub. Or on his way back from the pub. Or en route from one pub to another. It's hard to tell, sometimes. Anyway, here he is again, and so it's all yours. Dr Wordsmith!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I sometimes think how odd it is that there are everyday things which we never talk about because they have no name. For instance, when we buy a pair of men's socks, they are often

which we have to snip or untie in order to part the socks. As far as I know, that link has no name. There may well be a technical term used by hosiers, but it has not percolated down to common parlance. Dr Wordsmith writes: I seem to have missed the question. Is it something to do with socks?

No. I haven't come to it yet. Dr Wordsmith writes: Well, let me know when you have.

My question is really about sticky plasters. When you are putting on a plaster, you first have to pull off two flaps to reveal the sticky ends. These two flaps are then discarded and they flutter to the floor while you get on with the serious business of putting the plaster on the right place, though in fact they mostly seem to be imbued with static electricity and stick to your clothing... Dr Wordsmith writes: I'm sorry. What seem to be imbued with static electricity?

These things. These flaps that

come off plasters. These plaster wings, or whatever they're called. That's exactly my point! They seem to have no name, that's why there are so many of them littered around bathroom floors! Nobody can say, Pick up those ... things, because nobody knows what they are called. Dr Wordsmith writes: I get your point. And what is your question?

Do they in fact have a name? Dr Wordsmith writes: I have no



KINGTON

'Leith's Fish Bible could only have been titled by someone who took religion not very seriously

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I am intrigued by the role of religion in daily life. We are often told that religion means very little to most people No, I haven't come to it yet. What these days, yet the phraseology of We talk about giving someone a

sermon, or preaching to someone - often to the converted! We say that our prayers have been answered, even when we haven't been praying. We talk about things being the bible of something, even if we've never read the Bible. For instance, Caroline Waldegrave and C.J. Jackson once wrote a book called Leith's Fish Bible, a very good book, but one which could only have been titled by someone who took religion not very seriously. I mean, did they imply that God appeared unto Mrs Waldegrave and spake unto her privily, telling her the best way to prepare squid? Dr Wordsmith writes: Is that your

puzzles me is that when people use the word "bible" they always refer to something which is as accurate and compendious as you can get. Wisden might be the cricketer's bible, for instance. But this is the exact opposite of what the real Bible is about. There is nothing authoritative about the Bible. The real Bible is a bundle of myths, and halfforgotten history, and scrambled facts and fiction. The Old Testament is garbled history and the New Testament is a series of con-

phrase "the gospel truth" is an oxymoron. You can have the truth or the Gospel, but not both. Dr Wordsmith writes: Have we come to a question yet?

flicting stories about Jesus. The

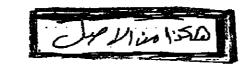
No. I was just letting off steam.

Dr Wordsmith writes: The you. I hope you feel better. And i next!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, Theopression "letting off steam" interesting, because most pele alive today will not have se steam being let off, and yet therase is still current. Is therely word meaning, "a phrase wh has outlived its pictorial inspilor"? Dr Wordsmith write am sure

Do you know what it? Dr Wordsmith writ I have not the faintest idea

As the pubs are stilut, Dr Wordsmith will be with omorrow for a further session (xicographical wisdom. So kechese queries rolling in!



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A quartet of unions that do the teachers a great disservice

EACH EASTER we are greeted by daffodils, Easter eggs and a week of teachers' unions conferences. "The conferences have not always been the best advertisement for the profession," David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, has drily observed. And this year looks as if it will be as bad as ever.

Yesterday the states was kicked off by the Association is set by the battle than such issues improving the sta regular bouts of ion militancy, teachers have lost the

of Teachers and I cturers (ATL). Immediately, the tone gainst performance-related pay rather raising standards in the classroom or s and authority of teachers. Is it any wonder that des e - or indeed perhaps because of -

support of so many parents and continue to fall behind other professionals in pay rates?

Unlike doctors or lawyers, teachers have never had a professional association. Instead, they are represented by four competing unions, of which the National Union of Teachers (NUT) is the worst. Its London-based male firebrands still regard the classroom as a factory for social engineering in ways that were unfashionable even in the Seventies. Doug McAvoy keeps the militants mostly in check (although even he could not stop delegates from jostling Mr Blunkett and his guide dog at their conference two years ago). But the NUT has set its face against performance-related pay on principle.

The National Association of School Masters Union of Women Teachers regards itself as the more professional face of teaching, representing as it does secondary school teachers. Nonetheless, Nigel de Gruchy's outfit has shown itself willing to take on the Government over conditions and pay. Although a strike ballot is scheduled, Mr de Gruchy is prepared to come to a compromise over performancerelated pay. For those teachers who find de Gruchy still too radical there is the ATL, as well as the Professional Association of Teachers which refuses to go on strike.

But these competing voices do not improve the wellbeing of those in the classroom. There are signs that this is starting to be seen. The unions have welcomed the Government's idea for a General Teaching Council, which would be set up on the lines of the General Medical Council. maintaining best practice and policing the profession.

Teachers, many of whom work long hours in difficult circumstances and for comparatively little reward, deserve better from their professional representatives. They need one professional association that can speak to the Government with the authority of unity, and which can address the public with the likelihood of getting sympathy for its cause. This is the most pressing battle that should to be ignored once again.



Don't ignore the other casualty of the bombs

THERE IS a sense of déjà vu about the ongoing mission of Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, to Belgrade. Before the Gulf war Mr Primakov visited his "old friend" Saddam Hussein to broker a peace deal with Iraq. Then as now, it would be impossible for the Western Allies to accept the aggressor's offer of a ceasefire. With Saddam it would have meant accepting his seizure of Kuwait. With Slobodan Milosevic, President of Yugoslavia, it would mean rewarding his ethnic terror in Kosovo.

However, this is no reason to denigrate Russian efforts to find peace. For not the least casualty of the air strikes is the co-operation on foreign policy and military matters be fought this week. Sadly, however, it is one that is likely which the West and the Russians have developed since the end of the Cold War.

A Pan-Slav campaign to defend the Serbs is unlikely. But the West should not ignore Russia's sense of betrayal. Russia accepted the eastward expansion of Nato and military co-operation with the West on the grounds that Nato was a defence alliance. The West is in danger of teaching a generation of Russians to distrust international co-operation.

The need for the West to be sympathetic to Russian's sense of hurt is strengthened by its partial responsibility for Russia's economic predicament. The decision to guide Russia from a command to a market economy was correct. But the means chosen were far too theoretical and the pace was far too fast. Western economists neglected to wait for Russia to develop the legal and social infrastructure that prevents capitalism degenerating into gangsterism.

In the short term, the West can afford to listen to Russia's roars with equanimity. Despite its geographic size and large population, Russia's economy is smaller than Hol-

be dangerous to the West. It will increase the appeal of nationalist politicians, such as Vladimir Zhirinovsky, and those people within and close to the army who regret Russia's loss of status. Both groups will make the task of developing a liberal and democratic politics in Russia much more difficult.

A desire to build up the power of Russia could encourage the meddling in neighbouring states and arms trading which the West has tried to stop. Small countries with restive Muslim minorities - Armenia and Georgia, for instance - might become fearful of US intervention and want to tighten their borders with Russian weapons.

The outrage of the Russian people will die down once the Kosovo campaign is over. The man in the Moscow underground has only the vaguest idea about Mr Milosevic and the issues at the heart of the conflict. None the less, the West will have to struggle to reintegrate Russia land's. It needs its IMF loans too much to fight for Serbia. in international institutions. The IMF could begin that But in the longer term, Russia's sense of betraval could process today by providing Russia with a generous loan.

Can Mr Blair really make war and peace at the same time?

THE ART of good government is the ously complex and not quite on mesability to do several things at once without the confusions and contradictions becoming too blatant or the party today, where Michael Foot is an seams of smart credibility tearing to expose the uncertainties of power. As the Good Friday anniversary approaches, Tony Blair confronts two crises that threaten to haunt the rest of his premiership.

Like Queen Mary, who had Calais engraved on her heart, Mr Blair will have Beifast and Belgrade stamped on his. He must continue to hold public support for the peace in Northern Ireland when the auguries are grim. At the same time, he must stiffen support for bombing Serbia when the gains are looking unsure and public nerves are starting to jangle. Mongering peace and war at the same time is a draining combination.

The Northern Ireland peace process was always going to be an exercise in long-distance running. As the anniversary approaches, it is looking like a marathon with random hurdles and ditches inserted to test the spirit of the weary participants. At such times the Prime Minister's job is a lonely one, and especially so for Mr Blair. Northern Ireland and foreign policy have not, in the past few years, been the focus of Labour interest.

Grown unused to office, the party as content to wrap itself in the general pieties of pro-republicanism and some highly selective likes and dislikes about abroad: Pinochet bad, Mandela good, Northern Ireland civil rights activists good, Unionists bad.

Anyone who thought much further than that was deemed danger-

sage. The remnants of this intellectual laziness persist on the far left of the unbalanced apologist for Croatia, while Tony Benn considers the war against Serbia to be a US imperialist plot against a proud Slav nation.

Few of Mr Blair's cabinet colleagues have the experience or interest in Nato matters or Northern Ireland to be much use to him right now. Robin Cook has his hands full with a media war fighting an extraordinary degree of anti-Nato bias in the BBC's reporting. George Robertson is a dab hand at

being pro-Nato, but he is overplaying it badly with references to Serb "genocide". Genocide is the attempted killing of an entire race. If Mr Robertson cannot convince us of the a testing time in the shape of need for air strikes without inflating the Serbs' record of repression in Kosovo into a second Holocaust, we really are in trouble.

On the peace front, Mo Mowlam has fronted the peace process with aplomb, but suspicion has deepened among moderate Unionists that she errs too much towards letting Sinn Fein get away with not decommissioning arms.

For his part, Mr Straw stuck his nose in at exactly the wrong time by calling for judicial review of the release of four IRA prisoners who had been convicted in the English courts but failing to get their release stopped his first tactical blunder since taking office. Fortunately, Mr Blair was provident enough to squirrel away a senior member of staff for just such



ANNE MCELVOY

Like Queen Mary who had 'Calais' on her heart, the PM will have Belfast and Belgrade stamped on his

Jonathan Powell, a former senior dinlomat who is the link to Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, and who also attends to the nuts and bolts of the Northern Ireland peace process. Quite how Mr Powell organises his week at the moment is beyond comprehension.

It is tempting to say that there is a screaming contradiction between our tolerance of punishment beatings, our tolerance of low-intensity violence, the selective interpretation of agreements in Northern Ireland - and our readiness to go into conflict with another power that behaves in simi-

Indeed, a number of voices sceptical of the peace process, of involvement in Kosovo, or of both, have started to point this out. It is easy to doing bombing Slobodan Milosevic's military installations while we are striving to keep terrorists at the negotiating table in Ireland?

But it is different. Obviously so, because Ulster is a province of the United Kingdom and thus unavoidably London's problem, whereas we clearly had a choice about whether we intervene in the Balkans. Having embarked on the peace process - a measure which was popular with mainstream political opinion everywhere and which brought him his first international laureis as leader – Mr Blair is anxious to maintain any momentum he can muster however ominously the sludge of resistance and resentment thickens in both the

Republican and the Unionists carnos. On Monday the Irish leader Bertie Ahern and Mr Blair flew to Northern Ireland in an attempt to reach an agreement on arms.

The Prime Minister can hardly be encouraged by Gerry Adams' words in an Observer interview the day before: "Anyone who thinks I'm hardballing, negotiating, going down to the wire, is failing to understand that this Sinn Fein leadership cannot deliver decommissioning."

Releasing the location of a few buried bodies, the IRA's grisly idea of a positive gesture towards advancing the process is no compensation for some modest, verifiable display of weapons forfeit. Bodies are about the IRA's past behaviour, decommissioning is about its future.

One day, the paramilitaries may accept that the forfeit of arms is not to

summon up the outrage; what are we be equated with weakness. But that day is likely to be further away than Mr Blair believed this time last year

The peace process consists of multiple bridges of ambiguity over which the various parties have so far tip-toed in order to keep the whole edifice from crumbling. The outstanding one is that Sinn Fein never signed the Good Friday agreement, and thus cannot be bound by it. As Mr Adams pointed out, the parties are pledged only to use their "good offices and influence" to achieve decommissioning, and so cannot be censured if they do not actually deliver it.

If, on the other hand, the Government presses ahead with the creation of an all-party executive without any sign of a weapons handover, the Unionist leader David Trimble is in grave danger of suffering the same fate as his predecessor Brian Faulkner, toppled by his own party in 1974 because it was pushed too far by London to accept the Sunningdale agreement on power-sharing. To destabilise moderate Unionism. now

would be a grave miscalculation. The only ambiguity left to indulge is the wearisome one of extending the timetable for the creation of crossborder institutions and postpone the final accord. It is not war but it is far

from a stable peace either. Mr Blair faces two of the kev challenges to peace in our time. If he fails in the Balkans, he will be accused of lacking caution. If Mr Blair fails in Ireland, he will be blamed - by each side - for not having been being brave enough. It is enough to make you wish

practice of assisting death, like

Dr Kevorkian himself, would

become increasingly uncon-

trollable. The job for the

medical and legal systems now

is not to seek ways to end the

suffering of the ill by elimin-

ating the sufferers themselves.

It is to make sure pain is ef-

fectively relieved and to

reassure patients that their

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Jews cannot celebrate Passover without protesting this genocide." Rabbi Michael Melchior, orthodox Jewish leader, speaking to the Yugoslav ambassador to Israel

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Love your neighbours, but don't pull down the fence." Chinese proverb

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noust endure, how much hopeless struggle is enough, how much loss of function must be accepted, how much depend-

personal choices. Fayetteville Obscrver Times

should check out the Nether- It calls itself Not Dead Yet. How lands where doctors have had sad that our most vulnerable

BUT AT least Kevorkian had, in the right to kill patients for decthe beginning, a valid point: it ades. The elderly and disabled should not be up to the state to decide how much pain a person cause they're not sure if they'll be cured or killed. Many have been put to death without any say in the matter. Is this where the US is headed? It is - espeency tolerated. Those are cially if Oregon-style laws are passed in other states. Already an interest group, made up mostly of disabled persons, THE PRO-EUTHANASIA crowd has formed to fight the trend.

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD US opinion on the conviction of Dr Kevorkian för second-degree murder

Augusta Chronicle

THE ISSUE of Dr Kevorkian in treated and whose mental particular is not particularly competency to decide to die he

citizens feel they need an complicated. This is a man organization with that name. who has aided in the deaths of many people whom he did not know and had not previously

demonic about a freelance death peddler who seems - as Dr Kevorkian has over the years - to be so energized by such morbid work. The Washington Post

was in no position to assess.

Whatever one thinks of assist-

ed suicide, there is something

JACK KEVORKIAN accurately represents the face of assisted death. Until this verdict, it had been effectively legalized in this state. Once legalized, the

wishes regarding end-of-life treatment - or non-treatment will be respected.

PANDORA

AUSTRALIAN REPUBLICANS are so confident of winning the upcoming referendum and installing a president by 2001 that they've reserved part of Sydney Harbour for a big binge on 31 December. 2000. They're calling it Last Night of the Poms.

WHODATHUNKIT? According to a new survey by an American cleaning products manufacturer, Brits bave "the smelliest homes in Europe".

TORY BOY William Hague is scheduled to visit the luckless Lubyanka to brief staff at Express Newspapers next month. Normally he'd travel mob-handed with his perky new spin doctor, Amanda Platell. If she shows up, it could be another sticky encounter for Little Willy: Platell will be facing Rosie Boycott - the woman who fired her as editor of the Sunday Express less than three months ago.

CALL THE Daily Mail and get them to send a reporter to the Decima Gallery in London's Borough, pronto there's enough material there to fill the paper for a week. The gallery's new show, running until 18 April, is called Was Jesus a Homosexual? (Readers of a sensitive or overtly religious disposition are advised to move on to the next item now.)

Gilbert and George have installed part of a 100-yearold fountain they purchased recently, which featured the inscription "Jesus said if any man thirst let him come to me and let him drink". This now reads "Jesus said let him come". Another exhibitor, Piers Wardle, has made a crucifix with wooden balls attached by a "string that can be played with" and called it The Miracle of Holy Balls. Charles Sayer's canvas of a naked woman, legs apart, is displayed alongside eight framed biblical texts and entitled Anti-Christ I awake thee. The pièce de résistance is

untitled triptych depicting a black Jesus and black disciples engaged in fellatio with Christ. The tactfully set to open on 2 April Good Friday. THIS ISN'T

Andrew Putland's

funny. You're not to laugh. But the mad mullahs of Tehran have just banned a fortnightly magazine. called Ardineh, for running a

story "Is Joy Lost in Our City? Is Laughing a Sin?" Well apparently, yes.

GOLD RECORDS? Platinum albums? They're history. The new criterion for rock success is the diamond disc. Artists have to shift 10 million copies of a single album to qualify; Neil Diamond doesn't, Pink Floyd do. One person unlikely to be losing sleep over this is the Sixties popster Jess Conrad, who uniquely managed three tracks on Kenny Everett's all-time camp classic World Worst Record Show album. Conrad is "emotionally distraught" that his truly hideous single, "My Pullover", hasn't been included in this Saturday's Channel 4 Top Ten: Really Annoying Records. "There has obviously been a serious error in the research," the **Buckinghamshire-based** Conrad fumes.

THE NON-SMOKER Clint Eastwood (pictured) had to learn to chain-smoke nonfiltered Camels to play a reporter in his new film True Crime. But his co-star Dennis Leary, who built his reputation on his own welldocumented nicotine habit. was forced to abjure the weed while portraying Clint's nonsmoking boss. Whatever happened to typecasting?

MICHAEL ASHCROFT, the Conservatives' millionaire lender of last resort, is sending increasingly desperate begging letters to MPs. The latest concerns the 1000 club, a questionable organisation where suits pay £1,000 a year for the privilege of meeting such influential international figures as the Vulcan-foundling John Redwood and his dynamic doppelgänger, Francis Maude. Ashcroft asked MPs to suggest at least one 1000 club candidate from their constituencies. Response was skeletal, so Ashcroft has named and shamed those who haven't come through with contacts: from a possible pool of 165 respondents,

only 23 Tory MPs

delivered the goods.

Embarrassingly, the

142 defaulters include two senior Tories who are celebrated for their impecuniosity and lack of heavy money connections: the oil trader Alan Duncan and Asda's head honcho

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@ independent. co.uk

Archie Norman.

Girls are just too sensible for sport

WHAT I have to say on the subject of women and sport will not, I feel sure, endear me to my liberated soul sisters, or to anyone else for that matter. I am moved to say it only because of the latest welter of views that we do not produce great athletes in this country because we don't encourage girls to play competitive sport at school.

Fiddlesticks. Schoolgirls have just as much opportunity to be sporty as schoolboys - at my niece's Hertfordshire comprehensive there are more girls in the school football team than boys - it's just that they do not choose to take it up seriously afterwards. Why not? Because they've got more sense, that's why. More to the point, when girls leave school, unlike boys, they grow up. They realise that being able to jump higher, throw further and run faster than anyone else is fine on sports day but in the long run, if you see what I mean, doesn't in fact get you very far unless you're prepared to sacrifice your life to it.

It's like being a ballet dancer except that the end result isn't anything as beautiful. I can see the point of giving up junk food, alcohol



SUE ARNOLD

I was brought up to believe that: 'Pigs sweat, gentlemen perspire. and ladies gently glow'

and cigarettes and working out furiously if, at the end of the day (for once this over-used expression is appropriate), you get to dance Giselle. But is all that sacrifice worth it just to be able to jump eight burdles faster than seven other people and get a pat on the back from Desmond Lynam?

All right, I admit I'm biased. I'm half Burmese, and Orientals, particularly Oriental women, are not romantic story. For one thing, it was noted for their athletic prowess with one exception. This was my great-grandmother who, according to my mother, was a lady-in-waiting to Queen Supyalat, chief wife to the

last King of Burma. My Burmese history is sketchy but I do know that the royal court of Ava was in Mandalay, surrounded by a deep moat. The night that the King and Queen abandoned their palace to the British, my greatgrandmother apparently fled to safety by leaping into the moat and swimming for her life to the other side, carrying with her a 2-ft-tall Le Pe jar made of 24-carat gold (Le Pe is a form of ceremonial tea), which subsequently became a family heirloom. "So where is it now?" I asked my mother. She said, vaguely, that it must have got lost somewhere along the line, maybe when the Japanese invaded, which is a shame because a 2-ft-tall solid gold Le Pe jar once belonging to the last Queen of Burma would fetch a bob or two at Sotheby's, I'll bet.

Aside from the mysterious disappearance of the jar, there are a number of holes in this otherwise

a bloodless coup, so there would have been no need for my greatgrandmother to flee for her life. She could have walked out of the palace with her bags, hailed the nearest rickshaw, piled her luggage on to it, including said jar, and trundled home to her village. If she swam across the most it was because she chose to do so. Maybe she was in

relay. Who knows? The other reason I'm inclined to doubt the authenticity of my mother's story is that no Burmese woman at that time, let alone a royal lady-in-waiting, would have known how to swim. To this day my mother's family up in the Shan states have a horror of immodesty. When I visited them she

gave me strict instructions never,

ever to wear a short skirt. Prefer-

Burmese-style sarong. There's no

training for the 100 metres freestyle

way anyone could swim in a hungui. But I digress. We were talking about the athletic prowess of British not Burmese women and their failure to bring back Olympic gold. One reason could be the dearth of glamorous role models. With few excep-

tions - ice skaters, gymnasts, certain tennis players and the late lamented Florence Griffith Joyner. aka Flo-Jo, with her sexy tracksuits and incredible fingernails - sporty

women are deeply unattractive. Now and again the tabloids run features showing women shotputters, women marathon runners and even. God help us, women rugby players looking alluring in little black dresses, but they are the

exception not the rule. Besides, when they are doing their sport they are neither wearing little black dresses nor looking alluring. They're wearing sweaty vests and sweaty socks and sweatbands. Call me old-fashioned, but I was brought up to believe in that old maxim "Pigs sweat, gentlemen perspire and ladies gently glow."

If, instead of pumping themselves full of steroids to give themably I should adopt a lungyi, a selves biceps like breeze blocks, women athletes could find an elixir that would render them sporty and feminine simultaneously, I might even buy myself a Liz McColgan mini-vest to wear above my lungui and start training for next year's London marathon.

Sorry, comrades, the Serbs aren't nice old Communists

MILOSEVIC HAS used the worst evil possible to rise to political power, to divide his people, to trade on fear and to operate a regime of systematic mass rape, murder and genocide. It is a scandal that he has not been indicted for war crimes. Instead, we have negotiated with him while, year by year, his butchers have worked their way through one part of the former Yugoslavia after

Yugoslavia is a totally artificial state, cobbled together across an international dividing line that had existed for 1,500 years. The eastern and western Roman empires bisected the land between what are broadly the Croat and Serb areas. It was then divided again between the West and the Ottoman empire. Yugoslavia was created by the imperial powers for their convenience at Versailles at the end of the First World War, without consultation with any of the component populations. It is simply amazing that Yugoslavia lasted as long as it did.

free and democratic votes by the peoples of Slovenia and Croatia, the British Government's view that there should be no change in the status of Yugoslavia. I asked: why, when we enjoy our own independence and nationalism, were we denying the same freedoms to people who had been subordinated in a wider federation?

Yugoslavia was never a democracy; the old feudal Serb monarchy dominated it. In the Thirties, Albert Einstein organised a round robin of protest, denouncing the use of terror by the Serb monarchy against the Croat leadership. That fact explains why, when the Germans marched in, so many Croats lined up with them. The world had ignored



LIVINGSTONE

We might have avoided the slaughter in Bosnia. but few on the left were prepared to speak out

the systematic brutality of the Serb monarch, and they seized the chance to escape. But from the moment of Tito's

death in 1980 it started to unravel. In 1981, there were protests and demonstrations throughout Kosovo I remember being in the House as Albanians demanded stronge in 1991 when the then foreign sec- autonomy and the upgrading of Albanians. When the Krajina retary told us, in the aftermath of their regional autonomy to an equivalence with the other six component republics. The Serbian Academy of Sciences began to stir up nationalism with a notorious report, published on 24 September 1986, that talked about historic injustices to the Serb people.

With Yugoslavia starting to fall apart, what would any responsible leader do? Try to pull people together? Build safeguards for minorities? Recognise their legiti-mate demands? What Milosevic did was to go to Kosovo to whip up a fury of Serbian resentment that could be ridden to power.

Many on the left view the Serbs as wonderful old Communists. Yet in the internal debates of the Yugoslav Communist party in the late

Eighties, the real old Communists warned, one after the other: "Beware of what you are doing. Beware of what you are unleashing." The British left failed to condemn Milosevic then, and also when he suspended the autonomy of Kosovo

I called for the use of air strikes to stop Milosevic when he first sent troops into Slovenia in 1991. If we had acted then, we might not face the current disaster. We might have avoided the slaughter in Bosnia. But few on the left were prepared to speak out. This is not some imperialist attempt to establish control of the region. The reason 41 American senators have voted against intervening is they see no profit in it for America, and the fact that the West was silent as Tudiman organised the driving out of Serbs from Krajina was an outrage. Frankly, he should be under indictment for war crimes and in Krajina.

what Milosevic is now doing to the refugees arrived in Belgrade they were not allowed off the train to seek comfort among their Serb neighbours. They were sent, against their will, to the Albanian areas of our will It is not a matter of whether Kosovo to tip the balance of the population there.

If we were to stop the air strikes, would Milosevic stop the destruction of the Albanian areas in Kosovo? Of course not. He would recognise that action for what it was - a sign of weakness. He would press on, seizing every day, week and month, to carry on his "ethnic cleansing".

I see this action not as another Vietnam but as a classic parallel with the rise of Hitler in Germany. Hitler rose by exploiting fear of the Jews; Milosevic has risen by exploiting fear of Muslims. We heard Hitler



Tony Benn's opposition to the war shows the split on the left

demand: "All Germans within one international border. Where we use state." That is exactly the cry we hear now from Milosevic: "intervene in Slovenia, in Croatia, in Bosnia so for the liquidation of Serbian areas that all Serbs come under one nation". Europe cannot be so gov-However, that does not justify erned. Nationalities are scattered and mixed across the continent.

I hope our action will deter Milosevic. But we must not let him think that because some voices are raised against the bombing, he need simply hold on long enough for us to lose we continue bombing or stop it; if the bombing does not persuade Milosevic to treat his own people as human beings, the West should be prepared to send ground forces.

Preferring to avoid the problem, some ask: why intervene in Kosovo when horrors happen around the world? I agree with Bernie Grant who denounced the fact that the West stood by for so long while genocide happened in Rwanda. The end of the Cold War has made a more dangerous and deadly world for many minorities who find themselves on the wrong side of an to the future.

power to protect the weak, I will support intervention, as I would have supported intervention in Rwanda, The left is as deeply divided on

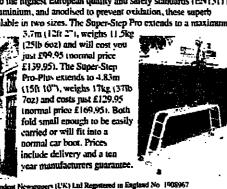
this issue as the Tories. I don't know whether this split is the same as that which divided the House o Commons on appeasing Hitler. So that honest Labour pacifists find themselves in the same lobby as Tories who believe it is none of our business what happens in a small, faraway country. Ranged against them are the bulk of Labour MPs and what remains of the liberalminded wing of the Tory party.

Or perhaps the division is between two camps: those who saw Communism as the only force capable of resisting Hitler and German aggression, and see the hand of modern Germany raised against an old Communist stalwart; and those of us who became politically conscious in the years between the invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia and never believed that the old Stalinist regimes were the route

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A revolution in police attitudes

defining moment for society in race matters - but will it be? The Stephen Lawrence

case has been profoundly damaging, starkly highlighting the problematic relationship between the police and the black community that dates back (at least) to the Sixties. Unless the police service can change significantly and can rely on external support to produce and sustain that change, the damage could be irreparable.

The report of the inquiry has now provided us with an "official" definition of institutional racism which does not make all staff out to be racist and which, by pointing out the unconscious nature of much racism, avoids fatally undermining institutional credibility. It provides a new standard of institutional vigilance, translatpersonal responsibilities for staff to position themselves at the right of each of four spectra: Unwitting - Knowing; Ignorance - Awareness; Thoughtlessness - Thoughtfulness; Stereotyping - Treating people as individuals

according to their needs.

Anti-racism in the Metropolitan Police will extend be yond general vigilance to focus not only on whether discrimination arises (unintentionally or otherwise); it will probe fully the reasons for different outcomes for different ethnic groups; and it will be alert to areas in which the significance of race may simply be overlooked. This approach is at the heart of our Diversity Strategy which we launched last September under the rallying

cry of "Protect and Respect". The Diversity Strategy already encompassed 32 of the 38 recommendations related to the police in the Lawrence report; and the early results are encouraging. Between the last quarter of 1997 and the same period in 1998: the reporting of racially motivated crime rose 101 per cent; 73 per cent more racially motivated crimes were ing the definition into specific solved; the arrest rate from stop searches at pilot sites rose from 12 per cent to 20 per cent, with similar rates for all ethnic groups.

So far, so good; but why the emerging divisions? Partly of course, they simply left and right. What's emerging



DENIS O'CONNOR From a speech by the Director of the

Metropolitan Police Diversity Strategy on institutional racism

in the much wider, middle ground, though, is about two things. It's an argument about the degree of the influence of racism; but it's also an issue of coming to terms with what is really going on in our society.

To meet the challenge of avoiding polarisation, we shall need to find ways of uniting around common ground; and I think there are two anchor reflect the entrenched views of points around which we can mobilise. The first is the pro-

fessionalisation of policing, and the second is the application of the Convention of Human

With regard to the professionalisation of policing, a quiet revolution has been under way in recent years, leading to increasing specialisation - for example, in relation to child abuse. Among the areas where further improvement is urgently needed, the inquiry has also highlighted in particular: Family liaison for victims of

race crime (we need real expertise here, especially if families lack confidence or indeed are alienated by the police); A real understanding in conducting investigations of the sensitivities around race and

race matters: A much more challenging approach to reviewing investigations that are not suc-

ceeding. Will that professionalism, together with greater vigilance about racism, suffice for policing at the millennium? Prob-

ably not For example, an approach to stop and search aimed at eliminating any disproportionality between blacks and whites which is due to unfair discrimination might go some way to easing concerns - but it would not necessarily meet the tests of the European Convention on Human Rights which we are to embrace fully next year.

For the key principles of the Convention not only require the use of police powers to avoid discrimination; they test the real value of applying a power at all in some circumstances. This suggests that it may be necessary to consider whether stop and search is an appropriate tactic to deal with an identified crime problem.

In conclusion, I am confident that we can make significant progress in pursuing the unfinished revolution in policing and in the provision and protection of the rights of all our people. But it will require considerable resolve. Adaptation on this scale will not be painless by any means; yet, as Martin Luther King reminded us in 1967: "Nothing could be more tragic than for men to live in these revolutionary times and fail to achieve the new attitudes and the new mental outlooks that the new situation



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WEDNES

" " U''' The Market

for Spor The legacy of appeasement



GARTON ASH

We need a commitment of at least 10 years, tens of thousands of troops and billions of dollars

ALUSH GASHI was a small, wiry, bright-eyed man, a surgeon, a healer. When we met in Pristina, he explained to me, with quiet passion and in excellent English, what the Kosovar Albanians were trying to chieve with their movement of noniolent resistance. Now he is dead shot by the Serbs running amok in Kosovo. I will remember him. And I will remember Fehmi Agani, the grey-suited, sly old professor who tried to negotiate a peaceful path to independence. I try to telephone other friends and acquaintances in Pristina, ringing all their numbers, but the lines are dead - and perhaps they are, too.

They were alive a few weeks ago They might still be alive if we had not started this bombing that is supposed to help them. Does that mean we were wrong to bomb? Not necessarily. But we were wrong not to have done so much sooner. The time to stop Milosevic was in the autumn of 1991, when he sent his troops to besiege the Croatian town

Vukovar, but we, in Western Europe, were fiddling in Maastricht. In the Nineties, as in the Thirties, a decade of appeasement ends in a war much larger and more dangerous than it would have been at the beginning.

For seven years we gave no effective aid to the strictly non-violent efforts of people such as Alush Gashi and Fehmi Agani. We paid serious attention only when other Kosovar Albanians reached for the gun. Then we huffed and puffed for another year. "I hope Milosevic is listening - this is the last warning," said Robin Cook. That was in June 1998. Yes, we tried to negotiate a just peace at Rambouillet. But, as the Romans knew, if you want peace, you must prepare for war. And we knew that in the last few weeks Milosevic was pouring military and

Here was our second big mistake: to start the campaign without being prepared to follow through with troops on the ground if Milosevic reacted as he has. Of course, it's easy to be wise with hindsight. I myself thought he would probably back down at the last minute. But it was irresponsible not to plan for the worst case, which is now with us. In Serbia



A soldier waves a weary family of Kosovar refugees through the Macedonian border

proper, the bombing has united people in defence of their country. Two days ago I talked by telephone to a liberal, anglophile friend in Belgrade, a fierce critic of Milosevic. He told me they were sitting in the cellar, cursing Clinton as a maniac and celebrating the shootingdown of a Nato jet. The bombing has "united the whole nation", he said. If people like him are talking like that, what chance is there that senior army officers will turn against

Milosevic at such a moment?

In Kosovo, Serbian forces are brutally driving tens, perhaps already hundreds of thousands of Albanians out of their homes, following the quarter of a million made homeless in the last year. The refugees' reports of summary executions are too detailed to be mere rumour or exaggeration. terror and destruction? Is the action concentrated, as some reports suggest, on the regional strongholds of the Kosovo Liberation Army? Is it in preparation for a possible partition of the province between Serbs and Albanians, a fallback position much discussed in Belgrade over the last year? Or does Milosevic really think he can "ethnically

cleanse" Kosovo of 1.8' million Albanians, 90 per cent of its population, even as our bombs rain down? Whatever the plan, it is being implemented with incredible speed. At this rate, even the most concentrated and sophisticated air power will not stop it before hundreds of thousands more Kosovars have been driven out - and humanitarian disaster has become total catastrophe. There are now two alternatives.

One is just to go on bombing, and pretend that failure is success: an Orwellian exercise. The other is to prepare very rapidly to send in ground troops. For all the appalling difficulties of mountainous terrain. mined roads, unwelcoming transit countries, restless allies and, above all, inevitable casualties, I reluctantly conclude that - if nothing es for the better – this wil strategy. Is this a wild rampage of become the lesser evil in a matter a huge commitment. Yet the realof days. If we go in while most of the Albanians are still there, Kosovo will not be "Europe's Vietnam", because the majority of the population - the Vietnamese, as it were - will be on our side. (However, our forces

> Kosovar Albanians from taking revenge on innocent Serbs.) The political object should be to

> would also have to try to prevent

make Kosovo an international protectorate, as it would effectively have been if the Serbs had signed the Rambouillet accord. We should try to get as many nations as possible involved - including, crucially, Russia. Ideally, it would become a United Nations trusteeship, for which the UN charter provides. Against the obvious objection that we would be invading a sovereign state, you could argue that Kosovo was a constituent part of former Yugoslavia - a republic in all but name - and that the international community has already accepted the republic's right to form separate political entities. Eventually, but only after a period as a protectorate. it could become the sovereign Republic of Kosovo - or Kosova (the

Albanian spelling, with an a). Coming on top of the existing proity is still more daunting. If Milosevic lost Kosovo, the Serbs might finally lose patience with him. But in Belgrade last year I was repeatedly warned that what came after Milosevic could initially be worse, with a figure like the extreme nationalist Vojislav Seselj gaining power. At best, this would be a Weimar Serbia, bristling with revanchist senti-

ment. At worst, it would be a rogue state, like Libya or Iraq. On the other side, to Kosovo's east, you have a failed state: Albania. We could not take responsibility for the Albanians in Kosovo without doing something about the imploded, bankrupt, semi-anarchic motherland. To Kosovo's south, there is Macedonia, an unstable, divided country, with at least a quarter of its population being Albanian. To its north there is little Montenegro, the other constituent republic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which is trying to assert its own autonomy from Serbia. What if Milosevic - or his successor turned his attention to crushing

The problems don't stop there. I spent the last few days in the capital of one our new Nato allies, Hunnorthern neighbour: Within a fortnight of joining Nato, Hungary has found itself involved in a war with its neighbour. Worse still, more than 350,000 ethnic Hungarians live in Serbia, in the Vojvodina - which, like Kosovo, was an autonomous province in the old Yugoslavia. So Hungary's new allies are also bombing Hungarians. I found Hungarian leaders wracked with

Montenegro?

RIGHT OF REPLY

DR PEGGY **NORRIS**



The chair of Against Legalised Euthanasia, Research & Teaching replies to our leader on mercy-killing

I TRUST your editorial "We should not be scared of euthanasia" (27 March) will alert readers to the inherent dangers of a law permitting the killing of sick or incapacitated people, even at their request. While the physically fit and healthy may believe they would rather be "euthanatised" than be dependent on others to care for them, no one knows how he or she may feel when that time comes.

TC Warburg in his book A Voice at Twilight kept a diary of his thoughts and feelings during the last six months of his life. He was severely disabled, and required total care. Having read Exit's "Guide to Self-Deliverance," he approved of it. But then he changed his mind, and did not want "to take or lose my life. Glad there's no Euthanasia Bill through Parliament".

It would be ironic if Britain passed a euthanasia law. The hospice movement, founded here, has shown the world how patients with an incurable illness causing disability and pain can be helped by expert palliative care and drugs.

concern. What if refugees started

flooding across their frontier? What

if Serbian nationalism turned

against the Vojvodina Hungarians?

was tackled by a charming couple

from another Nato ally Greece.

The attacks are madness, they told

me. Their sympathies are with the

a province of 2 million suffering

people, but a whole region. It will

mean an international commitment

of at least 10 years, tens of thou-

sands of military and civilian

personnel, billions of dollars. But

The alternative is for the

mightiest alliance of democracies in

the history of the world to be de-

feated on its 50th anniversary, and

to leave the innocent to be slaugh-

hundredfold. This is the mess we

have got ourselves into. This is the

legacy of a decade of appeasement.

This, in the deepest sense, is the

price we in Western Europe must

now pay for having fooled our-

selves 10 years ago, at the end of the

Cold War, that we could just go on

cultivating our own back gardens,

without facing up to our respons-

ibility for the whole of Europe.

what is the alternative?

In short, this is to take on not just

Then, in my Budapest hotel, I

The evidence emerging from government reports in Holland proves that once killing is permitted, it is not possible to set secure limits. Doctors do not obey the rules; euthanasia is not reported.

It is tragic that the British Medical Journal on 16 January this year reported: "Police and health officials are investigating at least 50 deaths of patients around England amid accusations that the deaths were hastened by denying the Food and fluid are part of the normal care we owe to one another. The Department of Health's view of the Bland judgment, which labelled tube feeding "medical treatment", was that it "laid down legal principles which point a way forward". In fact it pointed 50 vears back

Lives fashioned in exile

A PAIR of really long legs can be a great advantage in life. It is strange to think how different these two models' memoirs would have been if Irina Pantaeva and Waris Dirie had been born of average height. Both little less than 6ft, they sprang

up tall and skinny in Siberia and Somalia respectively, where food and water were always short and where, they each discovered, it was a tremendous asset to be able to run fast - Irina from Soviet Communism and Wasir from marriage to a 60-year-old (in exchange for five camels).

of their books on the move. Pantaeva ing a close encounter with a lion and



WEDNESDAY POEM

SIESTA

Three slow hours, bell-stunned hours,

slow as drugged words, Burma-slow,

These are southern hours for sleep.

In rooms, gloam-dim rooms, stone

still, heat-heavy tombs for sleeping,

lids, closed before the marble stare

Dreams rise, calm and warm as peaches.

in the eyeless smiles of crumbling gods.

of kings. Such sleep is South.

Sleepers soaked in peace stir

These hours in days as vast

as seas, in vase-shaped afternoons,

embalm the last persisting innocence.

This poem comes from 'Crossing No-Man's Land' by Judy Gahagan,

published at £6.95 by Flambard Press, Stable Cottage,

East Fourstones, Hexham NE47 5DX

poised within the sun's big arch,

stupefy the moments.

sun glows still on

Wednesday Books

DESERT FLOWER BY WARIS DIRIE, VIRAGO, £10.99 SIBERIAN DREAM BY IRINA PANTAEVA, BANTAM, £6.99

small city of Ulan Ude, but in Siberian Dream she is never far from a bus stop, train station, airport or boat. Dirie spends the best part of her first six chapters running away from home As nomads, both girls spend a lot across the desert, which involves hav-

may have had a happy home life in the then the assault of a truck driver. Fittingly, the same legs which enable their escapes also qualify them for entry into the fashion world, where they will tread the smoother surfaces of international catwalks. For both, going a long way is literally measured by how far they get from their home towns. That they will defy the odds and "make it" is never doubted.

"I was always looking for a way to make things better, push myself forward and find whatever that mysterious opportunity was that I knew was waiting for me," writes Dirie. While she believes that "survival is determined only by the strength of one's will", for Pantaeva "reality would be crafted by the tenacious and the creative". It is an interesting difference, for if Pantaeva's determination makes her lyrical, Dirie's makes her tough-talking.

What both share, however, is a strange, shifting language that melds their new environments with those of their origins, and which confuses mo-ments of biographical revelation with the more impersonal lexicon of their industry. Neither Siberian Dream nor Desert Flower, for instance, would be out of place as a headline on a fashion shoot in a glossy magazine.

Strangely, the commercial lang-uage of fashion is not seen by either model as an intrusion on her personal voice, but as a validation of how far she has come, and a means of genuine identification. "I did make-up ads for Revion, then later represented their new perfume, Agee," remembers Dirie. "The commercial amounced, From the heart of Africa comes a fra-



grance to capture the heart of every "my exotic African look", though it is surely not exotic to her.

At her first Chanel casting, Pantaeva happily recalls hearing: "This is an incredible girl. Look at her face! Where has she been? Where did she come from?" It is a key moment for Irina. "I wished I could hold lift in time

and live it again and again," she says. But what she perceives as an interest in her life is really the stylist's means of summing up the collection's "story" or message, for which Irina will become a vehicle. She mistakes the kind of admiration she receives. Fashion's constant search for the new intersects with an individual story, which then finds in fashion a meaning no less valid for being expressed through the formulae of an industry not best known for its sincerity.

Fashion represents an opportunity for role play; for being the centre of

attention in a way neither woman's cultures had ever permitted. But whereas Pantaeva's childhood of dressing up and sewing through the night to make clothes for the next day finds its just fulfilment in her life as a model, Dirie's biography does not. Nor does it when she resolves her passport problem; nor does it when she marries Nigel in order to stay in England; woman'." Dirie approves this use of nor does it when she finally marries a man she loves.

> Dirie's real interest lies elsewhere. She is most coherent when speaking against female circumcision, which she herself suffered aged five and which she now campaigns against with the UN. As she runs through these various strands without weaving them together, her memoir lacks the direction of Pantaeva's. At times, reading Desert Flower feels like looking at a photo album of somebody else's

> holiday snaps.
>
> At the close of their memoirs, Irina and Waris are both married, both living in America; but where do they go from here? Both have collected and recollected their experiences in memoirs like various pieces of baggage, but neither seems sure where to take them next, if anywhere. One thing only is sure: you have to admire them. PAULA COCOZZA



Waris Dirie, author and model

Rui Xavier

KOSOVO CRISIS APPEAL

In the past few days tens of thousands of refugees from Kosovo have crossed into Albania and Macedonia. Many are frightened and traumatised. They face a bleak

The Red Cross is at the forefront of the humanitarian response. Our local networks and international expertise enable us to distribute food, bedding and

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Lucien Aigner

LUCIEN AIGNER'S photographs were of the famous or the unknown, the dramatic or the commonplace.

All of his images - whether a statement about world peace in one of his series at the League of Nations in the Twenties, his coverage of people and life in France, England and the United States in the Thirties, his unforgettable essays on La Guardia's City Hall, Riker's Island Prison, pre-Second World War Harlem, Einstein at work, and prayers on D-Day in the Forties, or his photography of children in the Fifties and Sixties - are meaningful because Aigner committed himself to film only after he had made up his mind what he wanted to say.

His portraits possess an impressive vitality be they of the world's famous - Hitler, Mussolini, Churchill, Gandhi, the Roosevelts, Haile Selassie and other major figures of the time - or of his friends and neighbours in The Berkshires of Massachusetts. He was primarily a thinker and philosopher and only then a photographer.

The seminal German picture

magazines of the early Thirfies and the invention of a small camera, the Leica, spawned a select group of key photographers: Erich Salomon, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Robert Capa and Henri Cartier-Bresson. Lucien Aigner is of that vintage, but is one of the least known "pioneers of photojournalism".

It was the acknowledged "god-father of photojournalism", Stefan Lorant, who commented of his fellow countryman: "What sets him apart from other 'picture takers' is his fervent dedication to his work. He belongs to a minuscule band of camera artists who do not press the button in a mad rush but ponder and

think before they let the shutter go." Ladislas (Lucien) Aigner was born in Ersekujvár in Hungary, now Nove Zamky, Czechoslovakia, in 1901. He emigrated to the United States in 1939, becoming naturalised in 1945. As with many of his contemporaries photography was not

the profession for which he originally trained. He studied at Prague University in 1920; theatre and acting at Friedrich Wilhelm University and Reichersche Dram Hochschule, Berlin, between 1921 and 1922; and then law at the University of

Budapest between 1922 and 1924 Aigner was part of the creative explosion of Hungarian talent that dispersed during the Twenties through the cultural capitals of Europe. He was intrigued as to why the Hungarians were so strong in what was to become photojournalism, and believed that he belonged to a nation of storytellers who learned their trade through spending hours in the coffee houses. Though superficial as an art form, for him photojournalism

Presse, VU, L'Illustration, Weekly Ilbustrated, Lilliput, and Picture Post.

In 1939 he moved to the heady excitement of New York. He continued to freelance but not always successfully. Technically an "enemy alien" and prohibited from photographing war-related subjects, he turned his attention elsewhere.

Talking of his Harlem, New York, photographs he observed, "I photographed black people when it was not good manners". For Aigner, these were commercially lean years when he often struggled to make a living. "I sometimes hated photography. It caused me too much suffering, too many frustrations." His early work consistently shows a sense of huwas only another way of storytelling. mour, often with a sardonic edge and a remarkable gestural quality that

'I have always been suspicious of the cliché about one picture being worth a thousand words . . . Pictures produce impact, writing adds meaning'

the photographic medium," Aigner observed. "I feel that pictures are not enough to say what needs saying. I have always been suspicious of the cliché about one picture being worth a thousand words." Perhaps that is why Aigner was equally at home using both photographs and words. He became a writer for Az Est, a Hungarian newspaper group in Budapest, in 1924 even before he had considered using a camera seriously. It was to give him an edge over his contemporaries who were absorbed only in images and visual picture stories. Aigner was interested in the

total integration of images and text. Living in Paris in the Thirties provided opportunity for him to work freelance. This was to be his most prolific period and he contributed features to the Berliner Illustrierte compensates in energy for what is lost in detail. Later photographs of the New York period reflect the more formal style of American magazine photography, indicative of a more conscious relationship between photographer and subject and a more directorial attitude.

By 1947 Aigner's career as a fulltime photojournalist was virtually at end and during the next six years he crafted words again as an-nouncer, scriptwriter and producerdirector in the Hungarian section of the Voice of America. For Aigner this was "a glorious experience" and "the discovery of a new world" which ended in the political backwash of the McCarthy witch-hunts of the Fifties.

Aigner visited Great Barrington. Massachusetts, at the tail-end of the

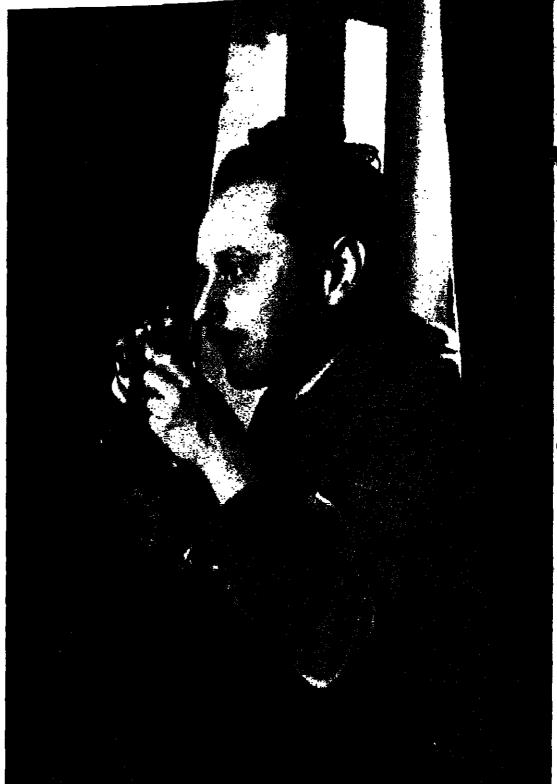
Zeitung, the Münchner Illustrierte summer of 1954 and found harmony in this region of outstanding nat-ural beauty. The Berkshires had long been the home of well-known figures in the arts. Nearby, Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote Tunglewood Tales, Anslin Phelps Stokes penned his monumental Church and State volumes and Herman Melville wrote Moby Dick. A few miles to the north is Tanglewood, where the Boston Symphony Orchestra gives concerts throughout the summer months. Yet another mid-European's wanderings were over when, the same year, at Great Barrington, he opened his commercial studio consisting of two floodlights and a Rolleiflex.

This peaceful studio was not the end of Aigner's European adventures, rather it became the centre of them. In 1970 he opened a battered old suitcase which had survived the Nazi occupation and been brought out of Paris by his brother, Etienne (better known for his exclusive leather goods), after the Liberation. Inside were about 50,000 negatives, the entire product of Aigner's European career. Finding this treasure trove coincided with an increased awareness and value of the photographic print and he began to develop his entire collection - about 100,000 negatives including his work in the United States as a major source of historic documentation.

"Pictures produce impact, writing adds meaning. Pictures without words are often ambiguous, words without pictures lame. To gather material for a written story requires painstaking, continuous effort in time while catching situations in pictures requires concentration on the instantaneous." Uniquely Lucien Aigner did both

MICHAEL HALLETT

Ladislas (Lucien) Aigner, photojournalist: born Ersekujvár, Hungary 14 September 1901; twice married (two sons, two daughters); died Waltham, Massachusetts 29



Thinker first, photographer second: Aigner in 1932

Lucien Aigner Museum

H. V. Hodson

H. V. HODSON was a distinguished editor of the Sunday Times not of the previous dispensation, but of the one before that. Before Rupert Murdoch acquired the paper and installed Andrew Neil to make it what it is today, it enjoyed under Denis Hamilton and then Harry Evans what many recall as a golden age, characterised by aggressive investigative journalism, uninhibited cultural reporting and irrepressible features.

Harry Hodson's Sunday Times was very different but in its way equally successful. Under his editorship, which lasted from 1950 to 1961, the circulation roughly doubled and passed one million, then a prodigious figure for a serious newspaper. Hodson found its proprietor, the first Viscount Kemsley, so difficult that on at least one occasion he came close to resignation. For, where Kemsley was a crusty conservative on social as well as political and economic issues, Hodson was a liberal conservative, in favour, for example, of liberalisation of the laws concerning homosexuality.

Hodson's intellectual pedigree, in fact, was that of liberal imperialism in general, and of the brand associated with the group known as Milner's Kindergarten in particular. The Kindergarten came together as a group of very able young men, including the politician and novelist



Hodson: liberal imperialism

John Buchan, the constitutional scholar Lionel Curtis, the banker Robert Brand and many others, who were determined to create a liberal regime in South Africa that would reconcile the Afrikaner and British South Africans; their interest in Africans was limited to vague paternalistic goodwill.

There was a close link between the Kindergarten and All Souls College. Oxford, to which Harry Hodson was elected, from Balliol, in 1928. As a young academic, Hodson's interest was in the British Empire, and his standpoint was that of a liberal imperialist, concerned to devise structures that would allow gradual

progress in the direction of selfgovernment. It is fair to say that he and his colleagues were so aware of opposition from blimps and business interests alike that they were cautious to the verge of immobilism.

Hodson took on first the assistant editorship, then from 1934 the editorship, of the Kindergarten's house journal, The Round Table. He also carried out with probity and intelectual clarity a number of assignbe called the Establishment, of which he was a card-carrying member. With his elegant bowler hat and rolled umbrella, and fastidious good manners, not to mention his membership of Brooks's Club and his Mastership of the Mercers' Com-pany, one of the wealthiest and most influential City livery companies, he both looked the part and clearly enjoyed playing it. As a young don he published a number of books about the world economic crisis and about imperial problems, from the point of view of benevolent rulers, rather than from that of the ruled.

On the outbreak of the Second World War he became head of what was called the Empire Division of the Ministry of Information. In 1941 he was sent to India as the "Reforms Commissioner" in New Delhi. Those experiences informed a series of which the most notable was perhaps prevailing idea was the special

The Great Divide: Britain-India-Pakiston, published in 1969. By that time, in a way that seems quaint today he had become the assistant editor and later the editor of one of the most influential newspapers in the country with virtually no

previous journalistic experience. Even more quaint, to those who have worked on Sunday newspapers in less leisurely times, was the clause in his contract that allowed ments on behalf of what would now him not to have to come into the ofdire emergency. Although Hodson had good personal relations with Roy Thomson and indeed with the brasher, very non-All Souls journalists brought into the paper by the new regime, it was clear that the new journalism was not for him.

Instead he found an ideal niche from which to contribute his knowledge of high politics and international affairs as Director - he preferred to call it "Provost" - of the term that would have appealed to Harry Hodson) at Ditchley Park, the Palladian mansion of Ronald and Marietta Tree in the north Oxfordshire woods. There he presided over conferences that encouraged high-minded thinking of what came to be called an "Atlanticist" tone. Alternative visions were discouraged books about the future of empire, of in a civilised manner, and the

relationship Britain might have as the ally of the United States.

In later years Hodson served as the editor of the Annual Register and as a consultant, and for a long time continued to attend weekly leader conferences at the Sunday Times. As an Anglican layman he also took an active part in Old Chelsea Church.

It is hard to recall Harry Hodson's life without the feeling that he was a devoted and civilised servant of a | was the genesis of one of the counnumber of lost causes, among them try's best-known apple juices, Copelfice on Saturdays except in times of the British Empire, the ideal of a la (an acronym of the initial letters gentlemanly journalism, and a of Cox's Orange Pippin plus the end special relationship between a ram- of the name of their youngest daughpantly self-confident America and a diminished Britain.

GODFREY HODGSON

Henry Vincent Hodson, journalist: born London 12 May 1906; Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford 1928-35; Assistant Editor, The Round Table 1931-34, Editor 1934-39; Director, Empire Division, Ministry of Inf-Anglo-American "think-tank" (not a ormation 1939-41; Reforms Commissioner, Government of India 1941-42; Principal Assistant Secretary/head of Non-Munitions Division, Ministry of Production 1942-45; Assistant Editor, Sunday Times 1946-50, Editor 1950-61; Provost of Ditchley 1961-71; Master, Mercers' Company 1964-65; Editor, Annual Register 1973-88; married 1933 Margaret Honey (four sons); died London 27 March 1999.

Devora Peake

and a businesswoman. A change in EU rules in 1969 had meant that she and her husband Bill Peake could no longer sell their smaller or irregularly shaped apples as eating apples, despite the fact that there was no change in their taste or quality. So they brought presses to extract the juice from this fruit, which they marketed as a healthy drink. This ter, Carmella). At a time when French Golden Delicious apples

championed the English apple. Born in Tel Aviv in 1915, Devora Peake was the child of Russian immigrants. Her father owned almond and orange groves, and she could remember being afraid of the snakes and scorpions that inhabited them. At the American University of Beirut she read commerce and economics. Later she worked for the Middle East Agency of Lloyd's Underwriters and for United Artists and RKO, handling workmen's compensation claims.

were a serious threat, Devora Peake

She was about to come to Britain to study fire insurance when she met and married a Jewish English farmer, engineer and inventor, Bernard Loshak. Devora was only 14 when they first met. He was walking through an orange grove when he heard someone whistling the "Kreutzer" Sonata: it was her father, and an acquaintance was

struck up. Devora and Bernard Loshak settled on his 120-acre fruit farm in Boxford, Suffolk. They were divorced shortly after the Second World War. but remained on friendly terms. She kept the land because he felt she was the better farmer, and more likely to make a go of it. Devora married her second husband, Bill Peake, in 1948, who had been in the Admiralty during the war They met at Champney's health farm, where he was convalescing and she was recovering from her divorce; they played chess together.

Soon they bought additional land. In the summer of 1958 East Anglia suffered a terrible drought, and De-vora's experience in Palestine alerted her to the need for the farm to have its own irrigation system. Helped by the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation and the banks, she was able to install what was at the time the largest private irrigation scheme in Europe. The apples grew big and juicy and the farm prospered.

Having turned the EU restrictions into a business opportunity, the Peakes saw the sales of Copella grow until by the end of the 1980s it was available throughout the country in supermarkets, delicatessens, health food shops and even hotels and 1997; two daughters); died London restaurants. Free from colouring, sweeteners or added water, it was

DEVORA PEAKE was a fruit farmer the leading brand in the apple-juice and a businesswoman. A change in market, and there was some demand for it in export markets. The enormous potential required resources beyond the means of the family. Then in 1989, as part of his BBC-TV Troubleshooters series, Sir John Harvey Jones visited Copella, and advised selling that part of the business to the Taunton Cider Company, which

> Several family members continued to be involved, working under contract to the new owners. Then in 1992, to everyone's surprise, the family bought back Copella, and expanded it with the addition of Cawston Vale and Copella chilled juices. A Royal Warrant was granted by the Prince of Wales in December 1997, and just after that the business was acquired by Tropicana UK, the leading juice brand in the country. Devora's sons-in-law continue to be involved, with Stephen Unwin as managing director and Roger Rendall as consultant.

In addition to the Copella subsidiary, there were still the fruit and farming businesses, and these expanded, with more land being bought, to a total of 900 acres, including land in Ardleigh and an interest in a farm in Colchester. Four hundred acres produce fruit, not only apples but also strawberries, raspberries and tayberries, cherries and elderflower. Of the remaining farm land, 50 acres are grassland and woodland, and 200 acres arable.

Two hundred acres that were deemed unsuitable for orchards vere developed in 1970 and became the Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club. Bill Peake himself designed two championship courses and a design award-winning clubhouse set around reservoirs. (He died of cancer in 1979.) The golf club is currently being expanded, along with a "Peake Fitness" health centre and a conference centre. In 1997 the golf club won the Bale Award, an initiative by the Suffolk Agricultural Association to find the best alternative use of agricultural land; it also won a

Times architectural award. There was further diversification in 1990, when the family bought Plantsman Ardleigh Storage, a fruit packing and storage company, which changed its image last year, and is one of the country's most innovative top and soft fresh fruit packing and marketing companies. It supplies all the retail multiples with top and soft fruit, and the brand of Peake Fruit is now being developed.

Devora Yaffa Lubarsky, fruitfarmer and businesswoman: born Tel Aviv, Palestine 28 May 1915; MBE 1996; married first Bernard Loshak (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved), second 1948 Bill Peake (died 1979; three daughters); died Colchester. Essex 24 Morch 1999.

Richard Allen

painter and printmaker who also found time to teach and work as an exhibition and art consultant, among many other interests.

During the 1960s he was primarily associated with the Op Art Movement and became part of Bridget Riley and Peter Sedgeley's Match Shed artists co-operative in London. In 1971 he became a member of the Matrix Group organised by Malcolm Hughes, which included the artists Geoffrey Steele and Michael Kidner. Allen exhibited extensively from this time and his work was selected, among others, by Nicholas Serota for his "Systems Art" show at the Whitechapel Gallery in London in 1972 and in "British Painting '74" at the Hayward Gallery. Allen was one of the first Op artists to show at the new Angela Flowers Gallery in 1971 and an exhibition of his recent paintings will be shown there in May this year.

His paintings of this period were often large and brightly coloured but during the mid-Seventies he abandoned colour to work primarily in monochrome and using a grid structure, with charcoal, cellulose

RICHARD ALLEN was an abstract acetate and wax on canvas and paper. His most recent works showed a return to limited colour

His last series of paintings, entitled White Pointings 1995-1997, bave a serene and peaceful quality. A number of these were included in a recent large retrospective of his work, "Richard Allen 1957-97", held at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, last October, which will also be shown in May at the Jersey Arts

Centre in St Helier. In all he held 21 solo exhibitions. including shows at the Institute of Contemporary Art, London (1975), Gallery Takagi Nogova, in Japan (1982), Exeter University (1985) and the Printworks Gallery, Chicago (1998). His work has been widely exhibited and examples can be found in many leading collections, among them those of the Arts Council, of the British Council, the National Academy of Art, New Delhi and the Museums of Modern Art of Lodz, Skopje and Florida; and the universities of

Hull and Aberystwyth. Allen was born in Worcester in 1933. After leaving school he worked for a while in agriculture, and

during 1952-54 underwent National Service in Korea and Japan. In 1955 he entered the Worcester School of Art and in 1957 he attended Bath Academy of Art, Corsham, where he gained his Art Teacher's Certificate in 1960. While at Corsham, which was then led by the inspirational principal Clifford Ellis, Allen was taught by some of the leading abstract artists of the day, including Adrian Heath and

Howard Hodgkin. During 1961 he studied in Italy on an Italian government scholarship and in April that year married Evelyn Laurens, a fellow student at Corsham. By 1964 he was teaching full-time at Croydon College of Art alongside the abstract artists Bridget Riley and John Hoyland. In 1965 he left Croydon and in 1966 he was a Commonwealth Fine Art Scholar in India. The following year he was awarded a Fine Art Fellowship at

Sussex University After 1967 Allen decided that he did not wish to teach full-time but became a popular and influential visiting lecturer at many colleges

of Art, the Slade School, Reading, Aberystwyth and the London School of Printing.

He also worked as an exhibition consultant and designer, and will be particularly remembered for his successful series of exhibitions at the Polytechnic of Central London, Regent Street, which included paintings, photography and prints by many important artists. While living in Jersey between 1979 and 1991 he did a great deal to help promote local contemporary art. He was involved in advising the Jersey International Arts Festival and one of his design projects was to produce a new sign system for the Jersey Wildlife Foundation.

In 1991 Allen moved to Whitneyon-Wye, Herefordshire and started to teach at the University of Wales School of Art, Aberystwyth, and during this time he joined the Teaching Quality Assessment panel of the HEFCW (Higher Education Funding Council for Wales).

Richard Allen was a gentle and kind man, a devoted father and husband. He was at his happiest and universities until the end of working in his studio with his his life, including the Royal College wife Eve nearby, busy in their much- 9 February 1999.



Allen: serene quality

loved garden. Sadly, she died of cancer in 1997; during this traumatic period Allen began to show early symptoms of motor neurone disease. which was finally diagnosed a few months after his wife's death. He moved to London last year, and spent much of his time designing work on his computer.

ROBERT TILLING

Richard Allen, artist, teacher, designer and art consultant: born Worcester 8 February 1933; married 1961 Evelyn Laurens (died

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

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7 at Turnet. In Riley's first raid led by Stirling, 18 of Rommel's vitally needed petrol bowzers (petrol tanker lorries) and four food dumps were destroyed at Bouerat Harbour Riley's next raid, on Slonta, where they were unable to surmount the airfield defences, was less successful. None the less, with the SAS expanding,

aircraft on airfields: 37 at Agebadia and

he was put in charge of training the new volunteers, who included a French squadron. He was much involved in the arge-scale raid on Benghazi Harbour in September 1942. Unfortunately the enemy had been alerted and it proved almost impossible to penetrate the harbour. In the fierce fighting the SAS lost 50 out of the 200 men involved.

However, with these daring and spectacular raids on Rommel's supplies Major Pat Riley

stroyed, the SAS had not only established itself but had changed the face of war. Pat Riley, an astute reader of officers and men, was the perfect man in adversity, fathering and giving confidence to his young soldiers. He was a steady influence throughout the campaign and often the mediator between its diverse characters. For his work in North Africa he was awarded the DCM.

Riley was born in Wisconsin in 1915, the eldest of five children. At the age of seven his family moved to Haltwhistle in Cumbria where he attended the local school until he was 14 when he started work in a granite quarry alongside his father and grandfather.

Finding the work unfulfilling he joined the TA, before enlisting into the Coldstream Guards in 1932. Celebrating before joining up and having missed the last bus, he "borrowed" a local farmer's horse and rode bareback to Haltwhistle where he tied the horse to a neighbour's fence. At the outbreak of war he volunteered

for 2 Troop 8 Guards Commando, part of Layforce under Lt-Col Bob Laycock, part of which was sent to the Western Desert in 1941. (While there he heard that he had received his call-up papers for the United States Army) However the Commando units were too large and immobile to execute surprise raids successfully, though Riley's troop led by Lt Jock Lewis launched a surprise raid in the Fig Tree sector, part of the defence of Tobruk. Getting under the wire they caused considerable casualties. After the disbandment of Layforce, Riley re-turned to the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards. Restless for action, he was quick to volunteer for David Stirling's newborn SAS based at Kabrit.

By the beginning of 1943, with Stirling now a POW and Jock Lewis dead, the charismatic Paddy Mayne took command of the SAS. Riley, who was now a Captain, saw action with the regiment in Italy before returning to Scot-



Riley: founder member of the SAS

land to set up a camp at Mauchline before moving to its permanent camp in Darvel. For the SAS had now swollen to the size of a brigade, with two British battalions, two Free French battalions and a Belgian squadron.
When the SAS moved south to their

new HQ at Highland House in Chelmsford, Riley was in charge of recruiting and training before operations in France. After D-Day mobility was the key and Riley, still based at Chelmsford, ensured that all the new jeeps were properly equipped for action behind the enemy lines. The SAS, now 2,500 strong under Brigadier Roddie McLeod, were to form a number of bases from which to barry enemy communications, and work with the French resistance, blowing up roads and railway lines and reporting to the RAF suitable areas to bomb. It was very much as David Stirling had proposed in the early days: inflict damage, casualties and above all, confusion.

After the Armistice, two battalions of the SAS were airlifted to Norway where Riley, based at Bergen, was involved in the supervision and disarming of the occupying German forces. With Paddy Mayne commanding, there was scope

for relaxation, but word was about that the SAS was going to be disbanded. Ru-mour became reality in September 1945. Little could anyone have thought then that the SAS would six years later

On demobilisation Riley joined the Cambridge Constabulary, but restless with peacetime inactivity he volunteered for the Malayan Regiment in 1950 where he worked closely with the newly formed Malayan Scouts in their actions against Communist insurgence. The Scouts had been formed from men of the 21 SAS, a Territorial Army unit raised in 1947 from the Artists Rifles and a Rhodesian squadron. In 1951 the Scouts became 22 SAS. Riley, who was based at Port Dixon and now a major, liaised and worked with the SAS in the persecution of the terrorists. With over 100 terrorists killed or captured, the SAS had proved their worth as an integral part of British counter-insurgency operations.

When Riley turned 40, in 1955, he decided to leave Malaya and with his wife purchased the Dolphin Hotel in Colchester. Three years later he joined Securicor, where he held various senior positions until his retirement in 1980, by which time he was living in Hastings. Although restricted by bad health, he contimued to play bridge and with another ex-SAS member held a number of regimental reunions.

Pat Riley never came to terms with the loss of his wife, Kaye, in 1996 and much of his enthusiasm for life seemed to ebb away. Even on his last day, surrounded by his family and in good humour, he reminisced about his life and in particular his wartime experiences, remembering every moment.

MAX ARTHUR

Charles George Gibson ("Pat") Riley, soldier: born Red Granite, Wisconsin 24 November 1915; DCM 1942; married 1940 Kaye Ward (died 1996; one son); died Hastings, East Susser 9

HISTORICAL NOTES

Grim, eloquent facts of Gallipoli

world war has aroused more controversy than the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915. It remains the most fascinating of campaigns, replete with "might-have-beens", or, as Churchill expressed it, "the terrible 'ifs' accumulate".

Although the quality of the substantial Gallipoli literature has been, and remains, very high, there have been exceptions. As John North wrote, "No battleground so easily lends itself to retro-by dysentery and typhoid, spective sentimentality", and, sadly, to mythology.

The Australian mythology is that it was entirely an Australian operation botched by incompetent British commanders. The Turkish version is that it was all a personal triumph for their national hero Mustapha Kemal, later Ataturk. Not too many Australians know, or want to know, that 35 per cent of the original Anzacs were Britishborn first-generation Australians, or that the best Allied general on the Peninsula was Harold Walker, the commander of the 1st Australian Division, and the architect of the capture of the fortress of Lone Pine. Like the Anzac commander, Birdwood, he was British.

One can have more sympathy for the Turkish mythologists. Kemal became President and Father of the Nation and a hard tyrant. Although he is long dead, his shadow survives him. The real Turkish commanders,

NO CAMPAIGN of either the Germans von Sanders and Kannengeisser, have been accordingly airbrushed out of the Turkish version. The folly of this is that

there is no need for mythology. The underestimated Turk soldier was a revelation in defending his country. Kemal's interventions on 25 April and 10 August were decisive. The defence of the tiny Anzac position by the Australians and New Zealanand the subsequent August break-out, is one of the epics

of modern warfare. But, as the casualty lists grimly demonstrate, the prime burden fell upon the British and French at Helles, and later at Suvia. While the Anzacs hung on resolutely during that torrid summer the British and the French were slowly advancing north, but at heavy cost. By the time of the brilliant evacuations of the Suvia Anzac and Helles positions, without a single casualty, under the noses of the Turks in December 1915 and January 1916, the British dead were 26,000, the French 10,000, the total Anzac dead 10,000.

In proportion to their male populations the Anzac losses were far worse than these bald statistics, which explains why Gallipoli is so important a part of their national histories, and why Anzac Day has always been, and remains, so important to them.

And Gallipoli was hardly the disaster it has been often depicted. Grievous though the Allied casualties were, those of the Turks were horrific, largely the result of heroic but futile headlong attacks in broad daylight. and for which Kemal was as

guilty as anyone. There are no reliable figures for the Turkish dead, but 200,000 is generally considered an underestimate. The Turkish army was never the same again. And, less than three years after the evacuation, the British occupied the Gallipoli Peninsula without a shot, the Navy sailed to Constantinople, and the vast Ottoman Empire had disintegrated. But it was three vears too late

Compared with the terrible battles on the Western Front, with infinitely greater losses, the Gallipoli venture was seen as the one real stroke of imagination and daring in the entire war - and one that so narrowly failed. The facts of Gallipoli speak

for themselves. They are as eloquent as the small and beautifully maintained Commonwealth war cemeteries. and the forbidding sinister bleakness of the arid Peninsula itself. Of the 36,000 British and Anzac dead, only some 7,000 have known graves. The Turks, their dead incinerated, have none.

Sir Robert Rhodes James is the author of 'Gallipoli' (Pimlico, £12.50)

Vyacheslav Chornovil

VYACHESLAV CHORNOVIL, who was killed in a late-night car crash as he was returning to Kiev from an election meeting, managed the difficult transition from Soviet-era dissident to politician, but never quite achieved the success he had hoped for in realising his ideal of an independent Ukrainian state.

Leader since 1992 of Narodny Rukh ("Popular Movement"), one of the main nationalist parties, he was a member of the Ukrainian parliament. As party leader he faced a difficult choice, whether to support the ex-Communists who had turned reformers, such as the current president Leonid Kuchma, or To side with the opposition, which was largely made up of Communists who had not disavowed their past.

A veteran of the Brezhnev, Andropov and Chernenko era labour camps, Chornovil was quick to take advantage of the openness under Mikhail Gorbachev to revive the activities of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group. He was a constant advocate of national rights and supporter of independence for Ukraine. He was instrumental in forming the pro-independence Rukh in 1989.

At the first semi-free local elections in March 1990, Rukh swept the board in the more nationalist western Ukraine and Chornovil became head of the Lviv regional council, the first former polit-



Chornovil: 'soul of the prison block'

ical prisoper to attain such high office in the Soviet Union. He immediately brought in radical measures such as the privatisation of land, shops and homes and ousted the Communist Party from its privileged position.

As confusion over the ill-fated putsch against Gorbachev reigned in Moscow in August 1991, Chornovil was one of the most vocal initiators of a vote in Ukraine's away from the Soviet Union. The vote was later confirmed in a nationwide ref-

to Ukraine's first post-Soviet president Leonid Kravchuk in the 1991 presidential election with a quarter of the vote. Chornovil was born the son of village

schoolteachers in central Ukraine in 1937, and studied journalism at Kiev University. He began work as a journalist in the city before moving to the western town of Lviv. By now already active in the burgeoning human rights movement, he had been deeply affected by the wave of arrests that struck nearly two dozen Ukrainian intellectuals during the previous year and produced an account of this persecution that was later with rival nationalist leaders in two other published in English as The Chornovil Papers (1968).

He was ousted from a Lviv newspaper in 1966 for refusing to testify at a political trial and was himself arrested in 1967 and sentenced to three years in prison, a term later cut in half. After release he became head of the Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group and edited the underground publication the Ukramian Herald. In 1972, he was again arrested and sentenced to six years in prison and three years in exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". His strength of character was evident parliament which approved breaking to his fellow political prisoners in labour camp. "The soul of the prison block is Chornovil," one wrote during a 100-day erendum. But Chornovil came second hunger strike in the summer of 1977.

"Conversations between cells are forbidden, but every day he reads us the latest news. The head of the camp, Pikulin, called Chornovil our general." He served his term in exile in the Siberian region of Yakutia. In April 1980, the Soviet authorities again sentenced Chornovil to five years in prison, but he was released in 1983.

Chornovil found political life in independent Ukraine frustrating. In Jamary 1993, in response to the perceived threat of a revival of the former Communist system, Chornovil united parties to form the Anti-Communist and Anti-Imperialist Front of Ukraine.

The fractious nature of post Communist politics hit Chornovil's own movement. Rukh split a mouth ago amid bitter divisions over policy and what some members said was Chornovil's authoritarian leadership. After the split, Chornovil continued to head a half of the party he called Narodny Rukh Number One. By then, Vyacheslav Chornovil's influence was already on the wane.

Vyacheslav Maksymovich Chornovil. politician: born Erki, Ukraine 24 | today. And it still attempts to December 1937; married Atena Pashko (two sons); died Boryspil, Ukraine 25 March 1999.

Behind the Hollywood myth of evil aliens

MUCH OF the meaning of Holy Week is uncannily up-to-date even though so much has changed between the biblical culture and our own. What is uncomfortably close to home is its reminder of the reality and persistence of evil. For the evil that was a key part of the death of Christ still exists

overcome the good.

It is not difficult to see the existence of evil. Millions of people are its victims; harmiess citizens maimed through landmines, youngsters who become commodities in the international prostitution trade, people starving through wrong decisions by others, children abused by parents, women beaten by their partners. In every part of the world there are people who go through life wounded, hurt or hungry. In every continent there are those who are used and discarded by others who do not care. The perennial problem of evil has never been a problem of whether evil exists but why, and

why its power is so strong.

It does not take much of a theologian to recognise that evil has something to do with human beings, and not just particular human beings but all of us. The benign idea that some of us are part of a great majority of essentially good people is simply overoptimistic. Although it's reassuring to be told that there is really a nice guy inside whatever wrong we actually do, or whatever destruction we wreck on others, we are living with delusion if we believe it. Similarly, Hollywood attempts to identify evil with aliens or newly revived prehistoric monsters may be entertaining but they lack credibility. What possible evil could aliens bring into the world which is not here in multiple forms already? No. in the real world that we live in.

evil is with us and in us.

It crouches at the door. It waits for the narrowest gap and enters without knocking. It cannot be pushed into outer space or masked by pleasant bonhomie. Many saddened unbelievers would concede that

say we have no sin, we deceive sophisticated language for ourselves and the truth is talking about it. Concepts like not in us. It is also evident today that

evil is contagious. It spreads faster than any disease. It is communicated by mouth. It is passed on by exposure to the natural course in our human relationship is to pay back evil for evil; the driver on the motorway cuts in dangerously on the driver of another car who has previously cut in on him; the terrorist group guns down a father of four in a retaliatory killing. The human ego finds it hard to absorb the sins of others and much easier to

ARGUMENTS FOR EASTER

ELAINE STORKEY

The natural course in human relationships is to pay back evil with evil. The human ego finds it hard to absorb the sins of others. But Christ did not pass evil on. He soaked it up

contribute to the pool of anger and vengeance. It is almost as if we enjoy keeping score of wrongs. As the escalation of conflict between neighbours seems to show, people even gain some satisfaction if the wrongs they dole out exceed those they endure. That is why evil can penetrate any human stronghold. The morally righteous are no less at risk. The events of Holy Week remind us that evil is able to turn the most moral of majorities into a seething mob of those braying

We have not even moved far in the way we justify evil. We still try to pretend that it is good. here, at least, Christian ortho- The only difference is that doxy is absolutely right. If we we have developed a more

for blood.

"profitability" or "greater choice" can conveniently mask things that on a different evaluation would just be wrong. So we can ignore the mass human misery which follows bad attitudes of others. The our trade in arms, or our deals with dictators for it is better that we have transactions which are profitable rather than lose our competitive place in the world. We can ignore the problems of children growing up with instability and breakdown, for it is better that we adults choose what suits us, rather than have our freedom and happiness sacrificed.

But it has all been said before. We recall it in Holv Week. "It is better that this man die than have the nation destroyed." Better that this man die? What better world is that? And what better world do we now have with today's justifications?

The sobering message of Holy Week is that we can all come to love evil and hate goodness. We have seen that truth illustrated in broken bodies and wounded lives throughout the centuries, in war, holocaust, genocide, and human destruction. It is an intrinsic part of our own contemporary world.

But, if this message of Holy Week is relevant today, so also is the other one. It is that evil does not have the last word. For it has been fully exposed for what it is, not justified or made benign, but confronted and disarmed. In refusing to pay back evil for evil Christ did not pass it on, fuelling the fires of hatred. He soaked it up, showing us that the goodness of God is more powerful than all the sin in the world.

The implication of this is enormous. It is that ultimately our human significance is not defined by the wrong we do, but by God's love for us. So we have a choice how we shall live. The real tragedy comes when we find it easier to live with the evil than with the love.

Elaine Storkey is president of the Christian development agency Tearfund and is a

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, Marriages & DEATHS

DEATHS

BURY: Shirley Joan, 25 March
1999, unexpectedly but peacefulk: Wife of John Morley, much
loved mother of Matthew and
grandmother of Matthew and
Bengamin. Funeral at St. Paneras
Cemetery Chapel. High Road,
London N2 on 7 April at 2pm.
Flowers to C.R.S. Funerals, 133
High Road, N2. or donations in
memory of Shirley Bury to either
10r Lipkin's research on Jenner
Hoskin Ward teheque payable to
Special Trustees for the Royal
Free Hospitaly. Royal Free.
Pond Street, NW3 2QG, or to
Metalwork Department, Victoria
and Albert Museum, SW7 2RL.

STAFFORD: Phyllis Diana. On 27
March 1999, aged 84 years.
Greatly loved wile of the late
Widdrington Richard (Dick),
dearest mother of Veronica,
David and Lavinia, and loving
grandupther of seven grandehldren. Cremation private. Service
of Thanksgiving at St Paul's
Church, Woldinghum, on
Wednesday 21 April at 12 noon. Church, Woldingham, on Wednesday 21 April at 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, donations if so wished to NSPCC. c'o B.C. Raker & Son, 15-17 High Street, Cnterham CR3 5UE.

EIRTHS, MARKIAGES & DEATHS are charged at ISAS a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Herb Alpert, musician, 63; Professor Patrick Bateson, Provost of King's College, Cambridge, 61; Mr Richard Chamberlain, actor, 64; Mr Sydney Chaplin, actor, 73; Mr Robbie Coltrane, actor, 49; Sir Roger Cork, former Lord chemical engineer, 89; Mr Mayor of London, 52; Mr Sidney Weighell, former Alan Duncan MP, 42; Air Marshal Sir Herbert trade union leader, 77; Mr Durkin, 77; Mr Don Frster Nicholas Winterton MP, 61. MP, 52; Mr John Fowles, novelist, 73; Mr David Heneker, composer and lyricist, 93; Miss Shirley Jones,

actress, 65; Mr John Kemp Welch, chairman, Stock Exchange, 63; Sir Paul Lever, ambassador to Germany, 55; Sir Pat Lowry, former President, Institute of Personnel Management, 79; Mr ian Mackley, High Commissioner to Ghana, 57; Sir Derek Pattinson, former Secretary-General, General Synod of the Church of England, 69; Air Commodore Helen Renton, former Director, WRAF, 68; The Right Rev Dom John Roberts, former Abbot of Downside, 80; Mrs Daphne

Robertson, Sheriff of Glas-

gow and Strathkelvin, 62; Mr Bob Russell MP, 53; Professor Dame Sheila Sheriock. Professor of Medicine, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, 81; Sir Derek Spencer QC, former MP and Solicitor General, 63; Lord Steel of Aikwood, former MP, 61; Lord Trefgarne, 58; Professor Sir Frederick Warner,

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: René Descartes. philosopher, 1596; Andrew Marvell, poet, pamphietee and politician, 1621; John Harrison, horologist, 1693; Franz Joseph Haydn, composer, 1732; Andrew Lang, scholar and poet, 1844. Deaths: John Donne, poet, 1631; John Constable. painter, 1837; Charlotte Brontē, novelist, 1855; Jesse Owens (James Cleveland) athlete, 1980: Enid Bagnold, novelist, 1981. On this day: in Paris, the Eiffel Tower was inaugurated, 1889; British coalminers went on strike, 1921; the Soviet Union

offered to join Nato, 1954; the Dalai Lama was granted political asylum by India, 1959; Hampton Court Palace was badly damaged by fire, 1986. Today is the Feast Day of St Acacius or Achatius, St Balbina, St Benjamin and St Guy of Pomposa.

Helen de Freitas

A Memorial Service for Helen de Freitas will be held on Saturday 15 May at 11am at the Weilington Avenue United Church of Christ, 615 W Wellington, Chicago 60657, USA. Enquiries 0171-435 0502.

DINNERS

Foundation for Science and Technology Lord Jenkin of Roding. Chairman, was in the chair at a Foundation for Science and Technology lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. The Earl of Selborne, Professor **Burton Richter and Profes** sor Julia Goodfellow spoke on "How Interdisciplinary is the Science Base?

LECTURES National Gallery: Colin Wig-

gins, "Orazio Gentileschi (v): Orazio Gentileschi and the Caravaggisti", 1pm; The Rev Nicholas Holtam, Alexander Sturgis, "From Exodus to Eucharist", 6.30pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Valerie Holman, "The Changing Concepts of Form in Sculpture", 2pm. British Museum: Helen Glaister, "Emperor Qianlong and the Great Collectors of China", 11.30am.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, attends receptions for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St James's Palace, and, as Patron, attends an Outward Bound Trust Dinner at Buckingham Palace. The Prince of Walles undertakes engagements in Surrey; and, as Patron, Welsh National Opera, attends a performance of Housel and Gretel at Sadier's Wells Theatre, London ECL.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Trevor McDonald, have you ever sat behind the news desk in a jacket and tie, wearing jeans and trainers underneath?)

evor McDonald, 59, is the presenter of the recently launched ITV Evening News, moving on from ITN's News at Ten which he presented for nine years. He has won the Newscaster of the Year award twice and was awarded the OBE in 1992. He began his television career back in his native Trinidad in 1962, and now lives with his wife and son in London.

What is your favourite drink, and why? Kerry Martin, Teeside Curiously enough, it's water. I've become

a great fan of sparkling water. Of course, I do like elegant drinks like champagne and the occasional whisky, but I think I would miss water most of all if it were taken away.

Was it your idea to stand up and move around rather than sitting behind your desk as you read the news?

Daniel Packwood, Barnstaple, Devon It was not my idea and I don't move around. We thought it would be nice to see more of our attractive new set – hence the standing position after the commercial break.

Who is the most irritating person you have interviewed? Joan Howarth, Wimbledon, London

I've been terribly fortunate in never interviewing irritating people. In any event, they would make terrible interviewees.

Were you surprised at Prince Charles's outrage at News At Ten being replaced by the ITV Evening News? Did you think the move was a good idea?

Campbell Fraser, Ipswich, Suffolk I was not surprised that Prince Charles talked about News at Ten moving, because the programme became a national institution. Our purpose now is to make sure the 6.30pm Evening News does the same.

Have you come into contact with racism, institutional or otherwise, during your career in television? Nigel Graves, Cambridge

What different character traits in yourself and your brother led you to have a serious broadcasting job with an English



accent and he to have a fun radio job [in Canada] with a Caribbean accent? Sean Lineham, Highgate, London I think we both speak in very much the same way, with an emphasis on good language, clarity and accessibility.

Have you ever sat behind the news desk in a jacket and tie, wearing jeans and trainers underneath? Rebecca Percy, Stroud, Gloucs No - I am boringly conventional.

When was the last time that you caught Margaret Anderson, Harrow I genuinely cannot remember.

Some people feel that all that matters now in television is the race for money and ratings. Do you agree?

Deborah Haynes, Acton, London I do not believe - but neither does ITV in ratings at any cost. But I do think that every television channel makes prog-

rammes because they want them to be seen by as many people as possible.

Do Jon Snow's ties represent a daily challenge to you? James Ribble, Stonebridge Park, London No. We each have our own distinctive taste

What is your favourite sport, and why? Will Lewis, Learnington Spa, Warks Tennis. This is because I play the game

every week and I am beginning to convince myself that I'm getting better at it. And can I say I like golf and cricket, too?

The scandal over the Vanessa show has proved that we can't believe everything we see on television. Is it true that even news stories are sometimes fabricated? Gary Kemp, Shenfield, Essex

Never. We may not always get them right, but we must always try to be fair, accurate and well-balanced in everything we report. GRIFF RHYS-JONES, FOLLOWED BY





SEND questions for the actor and comedian Griff Rhys-Jones and cricketing legend Ian Botham, to: You Ask the Questions, Features. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London £14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail yourquestions@ independent.co.uk),

What were your impressions of Glenn Hoddle when you interviewed him? Do you think he is guilty of maligning disabled people?

by 12 noon on Friday 2 April

Chris Maitland, Godstone, Surrey I thought Glenn Hoddle was an honest, decent man who probably expressed himself terribly badly. I did not form the view that he set out to malign disabled people.

How do you plan to celebrate the Beverley D'Souza, Bedminster, Bristol Unfortunately, I think I shall be working.

What was the first record you bought? Kelly Gardner, Ladbroke Grove, London It was something by either Pat Boone or Elvis Presley, I forget which.

If you could host any television show, which one would you choose? Laura Staff. Crouch End. London I am already doing it - the 6.30pm Evening News, I also like doing Trevor McDonald Meets... on ITV2.

What is the most difficult news story that you have had to cover? Julie Cavanagh, Linton, Cambs Before the Gulf war, I went to Baghdad to interview President Saddam Hussein. It was probably one of the most difficult

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Watch out: you've got evil mail

The next time you log on may be your last: thrill-seeking virus creators are at work again. By **Charles Arthur**

MONDAY MORNING was not pleasant for Jennifer Mehlow. "I came in and I had 213 nasty e-mails attacking me." she said. On the previous Friday, she had received an internal e-mail that appeared to come from one of her work colleagues at the PR company Fleishman-Hillard in Austin, Texas. But on opening the attached document, she found a list of hundreds of porn sites on the Web. Like any well-trained corporate

American, she reported the incident to her computer systems manager: clearly, the colleague was guilty of sexual harassment and porn viewing at work. However, the real damage had already been done. Ms Mehlow was just one of thousands of victims of the Melissa computer virus: while she was gasping in outrage at the porn list, a program embedded in it - called a "macro" - was raiding her electronic address book and forwarding the same document to the first 50 names there, many of them technology reporters. They not the colleague. No surprise that she got rude

replies. Anyone who received the email and opened the attached message could inadvertently spread the virus. Thus hundreds of companies and organisations including financial institutions, military bases and even (to his embarrassment) the governor of North Dakota, were hit.

Since Melissa can spread only by exploiting the flaws in the newer versions of Microsoft's Word and Outlook Express e-mail programs, the schadenfreude among the unaffected was heightened by the news that Microsoft itself was hit. The company shut down its external e-mail system for some hours while it made sure the virus could not propagate within or from it. Yesterday people were counting

the cost: Star Internet, a British Internet access company, reported that e-mail activity had dropped substantially compared to Monday. Its conclusion was that companies were simply shutting their e-mail systems off from the outside world. For anyone who heard Bill Gates

pontificating last Friday at the London Business School on the merits of giving companies a "digital nervous system", the last few days were a sobering reminder that better technology is not always good news. Mr Gates, head of Microsoft, ex-



were the source of the angry e-mails. Threatening a screen near you: in 'Ghost in the Machine', a computer virus assumes physical form

tolled the idea of letting everyone in a company swap information digitally, and suggested that the ideal would be the elimination of paper almost achieved at his company. Faced with that unleavened opt-

imism, the arrival of Melissa - which was probably beginning its odyssey around the world as Mr Gates took the stage - demonstrates an increasing weakness that pervades modern computer systems. In biology, if the members of a herd are too genetically similar, a single disease can wipe them out. Ditto with computer systems: as Microsoft becomes increasingly dominant, the users of its programs are open to weaknesses that they may not know exist - until it is too late.

Thousands of companies today rely blindly on Microsoft's word processing and e-mail packages. But for anyone with a sense of mischief, writing a mini-program (called a "macro") that is embedded in a document and does what Melissa does is the work of a few hours.

Efforts to track down the virus author began soon after the first copies of "list.doc" (the website list) were identified as the virus-carrier. Netizens rapidly decided that the audows 98, and was connected to a net-cause destruction and damage.

work. They also knew who made the network connector. That information was extracted from the document itself - automatically inserted, without the user's knowledge, by Microsoft Word (a revelation that

caused outcry a few weeks ago). If "John Holmes" is the culprit, he probably is not a power-crazed maniac, à la Ernst Stavro Blofeld, sitting in state stroking his cat. More likely he will be a teenager, who spends most of his time in his bedroom, undisturbed by his Midwestern American parents, who is fascinated by computers and especially in controlling them. His motive is not to get rich; it is to get noticed by his peers - other virus-writers.

"Most virus-writers are adolescents with a point to prove." says David Emm, an anti-virus specialist. "They're usually bored and frustrated and they take on virus-detectors to try to prove how clever they are. Most are very competitive, but lose interest in their early twenties."

Strange as it may seem, computer hackers, who are generally the same age, hate virus-writers, seeing them as people who do not respect the machines they target. Hackers find thrills in entering and controlthor's name was John Holmes, that ling another computer Virus-writers he was running Windows 95 or Win-send their progeny out, usually to

Melissa is part of the new generation of viruses which have appeared since computing became integrated into the modern business world. In the Eighties, primitive viruses relied on floppy disks to spread. The arrival of electronic mail in the Nineties, and of "attachments" (files such as word processing documents and spreadsheet files), meant information could be spread far faster than ever before.

So could viruses. Attachments gave rise to the "macro" virus, developed within Microsoft by a freelance. Though his identity is unknown, he apparently realised one day in 1995 while tinkering with Microsoft Word that he could create a virus-like program using its macros. Called "Prank" or "Concept" by virus-cataloguers, its first recorded appearance is on a CD-Rom sent out in early 1995 by

Microsoft to program-developers. The corporation has always been uncomfortable about the fact that first DOS and Windows, its worldswallowing operating systems, and then Word, have been so prey to virus-writers. In 1996 Stuart Anderson, then Microsoft UK's support services manager, said: "To consider taking out the functionality [that makes macro-viruses feasible] would be a step back. I mean, can you have too much functionality?"

After this weekend, you would tend to answer: yes. By yesterday there were at least three new "strains" of Melissa whirling around, one named "Papa" and using Microsoft's Excel spreadsheet rather than Word to propagate, and copying it-

self to 60 people rather than 50. If nothing else, the problems of macro-viruses have shown the weakness inherent in Microsoft's dominance of both business software and home PCs. Many people are paranoid about downloading files from the Internet - a fear which hoaxers exploit by creating messages that warn: "If you get an e-mail entitled JOIN THE CREW then don't open it, it will destroy your computer!! Send this message to 50 friends to warn them too!!" The only difference about Melissa, of course, is that it automates the sending process.

Meanwhile the anti-virus business has become a worldwide industry worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

But while it is the virus-writers who create the potential for damage, to some extent the users and the writers of the software have to shoulder some blame. If Word macros could not automatically access the electronic address book, Melissa would be impossible; if the e-mail program could not automatically open a document; and so on. "Sure, the problem is the default settings Microsoft puts in," said Jack Clark of Network Associates International, an anti-virus company. "But people want functionality. We always encourage people to change the defaults."

In the end, virus-writers will always find a way in - especially with more and more inexperienced users who want less and less involvement with their machines. To quote a comment spotted on the Internet yesterday: "If you make it idiot-proof, they will make a better

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

other day. I did a double-take. Had the war spread to central London? A blonde babe wearing camouflage combat trousers and a fleece jacket was talking into her mobile phone, looking more Kosovo than Bond Street. A couple of Soho film producers in bright vellow Prada Gore-Tex jackets looked like they should be putting out a fire rather than enjoying a business lunch.

Urban utility wear, which started out as an anti-fashion statement reserved for the loved-up E generation, has come out of the trip-hop clubs and on to the catwalk. Cuttingedge fashion designers have gone Pac-a-Mac crazy. For its spring collection, Prada sent models down the catwalk in neoprene walking skirts and trekking boots, and those sometime purveyors of sophisticated style, Louis Vuitton and Ralph Lauren, have gone cagoule mad. Instead of smart jackets and lacy cardigans, it's Millets meets army surplus store.

Otherwise sensible girls with perfect hair and make-up swan around the Met Bar. China White's and other trendy watering holes in sleeveless Puffa jackets and shapeless track pants looking as if they're about to attend a militant feminist meeting rather than giggle and drink champagne.

What's happened to good old sex-on-legs clothing? Oh, you remember: plunging necklines and stockings from Agent Provocateur begging to be torn off in a frenzy of sexual desire? Am I the only Nineties chick without anything with storm flaps or a goose-down lining?

Of course, my hip sisters will say, I am missing the point. Nike walking boots and North Face Puffa jackets are not about denying one's sexuality they say: it expresses the postfeminist nonchalant attitude to dressing. The modern urban chick is relaxed about her sexuality; she doesn't need to display her wares in an overtly sexual manner. Why teeter on stilettos when you can slouch in a pair of Birkenstocks?



Utility girl: Nicky Appleton of All Saints. Big Pictures

Clothing to me means sexual power. On the Continent, no self-respecting woman would be seen without her figureenhancing tailleur or four-inch heels. To her, part of being a woman is about dressing up and creating glamour.

Of course, unisex dressing is nothing new; women have been adopting male clothing since the Twenties when Coco Chanel encouraged women to wear loose-fitting trousers. But these were feminine and fluid, and flattered the female form. Similarly, the militant feminists of the Seventies swanned around with a copy of The Female Eunuch, dressed in mannish suits with widelapelled shirts and waistcoats (remember Charlie's Angels?). The aim was to reconstruct male clothing to show the

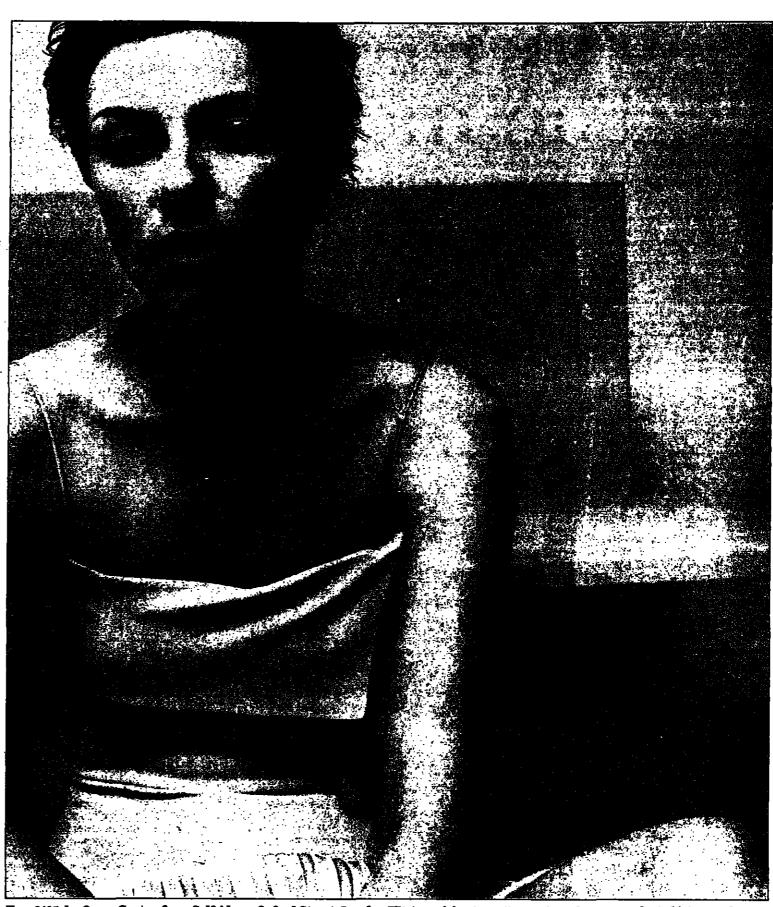
female form to advantage. I am not advocating a return to the prim and proper Fifties, when a woman's only assets were her petite waistline and cordon bleu cooking skills. But Girl Power is not just about the choice to wear what you want, but to be, you know, a girl.

re neus des rneathy



Dress, £90, by French Connection, 249 Regent Street, London W1 (enquiries 0171-399 7200); floral coat, £1,420, by Paul Smith Women (enquiries 0171-379 7133)

They call me mellow yellow



by Owen Gaster, from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 (enquiries 0171-580 9984); satin sunray pleat skirt, £165, by The Scotch House, 84 Regent Street, London W1 (enquiries 0171-495 5767). Photographer: Anna Stevenson. Stylist: Holly Wood. Hair: James Mooney at Paul Windle, using Bumble and Bumble. Make-up: Firyal Arneil, using Lancôme. Model: Mairead Mchugh at take two

Avoid the sulphurous and wear it washed out – and you, too, can carry off the season's hottest colour. By Rebecca Lowthorpe



Left Gingham shirt, £140, by Paul Smith Women, 41 Floral Street, London WC2

Right Jumper, £69.95, by Karen Millen, 262-264 Regent Street, London W1 (enquiries 01622-664 032); check skirt, (enquiries 0171-278 3491)



you don't like colour, you have a fashion crisis on your hands this season. Sorry to cause alarm, but this is not one of those insignificant trends aimed at fashion's underground movers and shakers. This is a surging, all-encompassing movement that targets everyone, whether you shop at Westwood or Warehouse, Marks & Spencer or MaxMara. Designers have fallen head over heels

colour - vivid, eye-popping colour, that is. Fuchsia, emerald, aquamarine, coral, turquoise, melon, ruby, lilac, crimson... you get the picture.

Call it a fashionable whim, an inevitable backlash to the interminable seasons of grey, or a last-minute surge of optimism at the end of the century. For whatever reason, sludge is out, colour is in - and with

Alarm bells started to ring when the triunivirate masters of monochrome - Calvin Klein, Helmut Lang and Tom Ford at Gucci - smattered their usual slick but sober catwalks with throbbing shades of neon pink, electric blue and splashy tropical flower prints. The fashion editors blinked hard behind their black shades, quivered with ex-citement in their black uniforms and comptly started buying up the world's stock of brightly coloured pashminas.

But for even the most colour-friendly fashion editor, there is one spectrum that is causing widespread panic - yellow. From Marni's egg-yolk felt skirts to Martine Sitbon's sulphurous sunflower shell

tops, to banana silks at John Rocha and Byblos, yellows are regarded with deep suspicion. Is there any wonder? Yellow seems to endow most complexions with a deathly pallor. It's the difference between the bilious look of the Norwich City Canaries and the Brazilian national football team who. in their dynamic yellow kit, look the picture

Still, if there's any time to try out yel-low, it's now. After all, this is the season of fluffy chicks, daffodils and, of course, Easter eggs. "It's a great colour for Easter, especially if you want to be recognised in a crowd," says Caroline Bennett of Color Me Beautiful. "And it's good for cheering yourself up, too." What's more, it doesn't have to be a violent strain of yellow. As the pictures on this page prove, yellow - of the pale

" interesting variety - can look, well, pale Paul Smith, never a designer to put anything on the catwalk that won't work in real life, tried out a shade he calls "washed-out lemon", which he says illuminates even the milkiest of skin tones. "It's a warm shade that gives a fresh and optimistic feel after so much deadening black, which now looks so dated." His advice is to keep sharp-

tels. (Check out his custard-cream duster coat dappled with pink roses, above.) Owen Gaster may hail from the other side of the design tracks to Smith, but even he refused to inflict us with a searing yellow at his spring/sommer show. "I know

er shades away from your face and wear

yellow can look dodgy on white skin, but this milky lemon shade gave a softer spin to my collection," he says thoughtfully. But does this 29-year-old designer wear yellow himself? "Yeah. One of my favourite jumpers is a yellow Pringle, but I only wear it on Sundays.

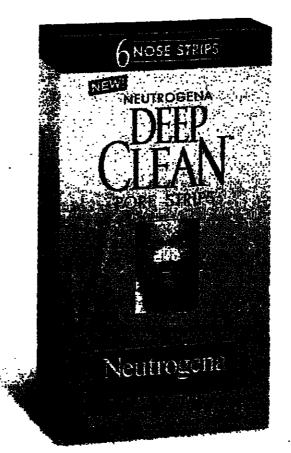
"You've got to be brave to wear yellow," ays Gaster, who adds that the key to wearing bright yellow is to match it with an equally strong red. His tip is simply to wear it with confidence

Where designers lead, the high street follows, in this case cautiously. "Don't wear it from head to toe!" laughs Lucinda Lee, head of design at Warehouse. "It's not a difficult colour to wear if you mix it with others - black, denim or white. Whatever you do," she warns, "wear it in moderation." Warehouse's range includes strappy vests, fitted cotton shirts and knitted twinsets in the softest primrose.

Karen Millen, the mistress of sharp tai loring on the high street, is never one to shirk from the hottest vibrant colour trend. She says the way to make yellow look fresh and modern is to wear it with pale greys (see, last season's wardrobe will still come in handy) and sporty blacks but it "looks sharpest and strongest as an accent to clean, stark white".

softer tones with pure white or dusty pas-So, the experts say it's possible. If you follow their advice you won't end up resembling a big chicken or looking janndiced. And looking on the (bright) side of things, next season's big colour frend is orange. Now there's a tricky colour.

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The mother of all Bubbles

he first time I met Jane Horrocks, I didn't take to her at all. The second time I met her, I practically fell in love. Such are the psychodynamics of the interview. My first was in September 1995, in the dressing-room of a photo-studio. Jane sat opposite the mirror; I was perched to one side. We did our best to maintain a conversation while a make-up artist fluttered around her face. She was about to open as Lady Macbeth in Mark Rylance's production of the Scottish play. "I'd say that 95 per cent of the productions I've seen of Shakespeare have been abysmal," she proclaimed, with regal

The RSC tradition, she said, encouraged snobbery and elitism. The idea that actors required training to speak blank verse was "Bollocks! It's just bollocks." But the Rylance production, in which Horrocks's Lady Mac would urinate, live on stage, was going to break new ground. "I did Macbeth at Rada and I always wanted to do it professionally, but with the right person. There's no point playing Lady Macbeth unless you respect your Macbeth, and I really do respect Mark."

The more I heard, the more I suspected that this would be sort of theatrical débacle that only Macbeth can engender. Sure enough, the production was thoroughly panned, and Horrocks has recently been reported as saying that the experience of her nightly wee put her off stage acting for good. But if her feelings about Macbeth have changed, there are other aspects of her life and character that must surely have stayed the same.

"I learnt the art of acting quite early on," she said. "I could wrap my parents round my little finger, but I had two brothers who were quite tough going, so I had to fight for attention. They put me in my place. It used to be, 'Oh shut up, Jane, yer bloody thick.' But they are more in awe than they used to be."

She didn't want to discuss her then boyfriend, the theatre director Sam Mendes, and seemed on the cusp of some sort of personal change. "I think I was quite ambitious when I was in my twenties, but now I'm looking for something else. I'm just not as satisfied as I used to be by things. I get bored really, really quickly. I'm not nat-urally contented. I wish I was, but I have a very vivid imagination and unless that's used, I get really frustrated."

Now cut to February 1999. I met Jane Horrocks again in a restaurant in Twickenham. This time we were discussing Hunting Venus, an insubstantial but enjoyable TV movie about an Eighties New Romantic pop group, reunited for a comeback show by their sole remaining fans, a pair of lesbians, one of whom is Horrocks. and Bassey, but she lost out to Gwyneth It stars Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey Paitrow. They'd sat at a table a few feet and was scripted by the 37-year-old screenwriter Nick Vivian, Horrocks's partner and the father of her two-year-old son.



Jane Horrocks: Jennifer Saunders had only to exaggerate her natural character to create Bubble in 'Absolutely Fabulous'

David Sandison

est of bumps to suggest her condition. (A daughter, Molly, was born 10 days ago.) And across a small table, something became apparent that had not been obvious at my previous side-on interview: she is ravishingly pretty, with huge blue eyes set in a delicate, elfin face. Not that this was of any use to me, because those eyes spent most of the time looking at Nick Vivian, sitting next to her, with the mixture of amusement, adoration, possessiveness and absolute openness that women reserve for those whom they truly love.

"It's such a relief not to be talking about Little Voice," she said. The couple were just back from attending the Golden Globes awards in Hollywood. Horrocks had been nominated Best Actress in a Comedy for her performance as the Northern wallflower who can sing like Garland, Holliday from Jim Carrey. The whole place had been teeming with superstars. "That sort of hype is so alien to the world as we know it," said

rassing. What have Mum and Dad and your brothers and sisters got to do with the film? And thanking God - it's pitiful." The occasion had given her no desire

to go West in search of superstardom: "Airport photographers caught us getting off the plane from LA. I never thought it would happen to me, so I'd made no effort. Imagine what it must be like having to spend two hours in the loo before you land, preparing for the cameras." Outside it began to rain. Jane peered

anxiously through the window. "I'm worried about my washing," she said. "I'm a washing obsessive. If Steven Spielberg called up on laundry day and offered me a film I'd say, hang on a second, I'm doing

as his on-screen partner? "It depends what the script was like. If it's rubbish, what's the point?"

And if a big Hollywood star wanted her

Er... money, usually. She grimaced. "Money's not my thing."

In these more relaxed circumstan Now deep into the third trimester of her Jane. "You can only stand open-mouthed. both Jane's wit and her comic timing be- all's said and done." She, like every one of had spent the entire game agonising about second pregnancy, she had just the neat- And the speeches are downright embar- came more evident. It was easy to see how the film's thirtysomething cast, had foud his career.

Jennifer Saunders had only to exaggerate her natural character to create Bubble, the daffy secretary in Ab Fab. We started talking about Hunting Venus. Nick Vivian had been toying with the story for years. At the start, Jane was just an actress whom he admired, but who kept turning down offers to appear in things he'd written: "Two things," she interjected. "And one of them was for charity." By the time he finally sat down to write, they were living together. (The thing that made the difference to their relationship, Nick said later, was drink.)

As he wrote, Nick discussed his new script with Jane. Or, at least, he tried to. "I always used to show Jane bits and bobs of what I was writing, but I've learnt not to do that any more - there's an immediate response of boredom." Horrocks: "He reads them out to me in a pompous fashion. I'd rather read it on the page." Vivian: "She's right. It's much better to keep my trap shut until it's finished." A pause, then Horrocks again: "He's not an actor, when

memories of the New Romantic era. "I remember going to this club in Ribchester, where I lived, called the Lodestar. They played Bryan Ferry, Bowie and a bit of Adam Ant. It was such a weirdo period, but very exciting. There was a threat in the air about those clubs - well, there certainly was about that one. They used to hit people with bits of wood. "I did a fashion show for a local hair-

dresser called Tony Winder. He dyed my hair pink and did it all up à la New Romantic and he'd roped in these other three girls who were proper punks and really quite hard. So they came down the catwalk to Bow Wow Wow and everyone was silent with fear. Then I came dancing down and they all roared with laughter. I went, 'Why? I look hard as well. I look tough. Why are you laughing at me?' I was furious."

Talking about the making of Hunting Venus, Jane recalled that she watched the England vs Argentina World Cup match with Neil Morrissey, in the hotel where they were staying while on location. Morrissey

'I was in the Soho House with Kathy

loyd that night," interrupted Nick Vivian. "Feeling her busts," said Jane.

"I wasn't... "You were feeling her busts brushing

against you." Vivian defended himself. "When Sol Campbell scored, I flung my arms round Kathy, only to realise that she had turned round, so I had one hand on each breast. I said, "I'm terribly sorry: Kathy." She said, "It doesn't matter, we've scored." So when it was disallowed I felt like a terrible old fraud. But she didn't seem to

"That's his story," said Jane, in mock indignation.

I paid the restaurant bill and we went out into the south London drizzle. Jane and Nick needed to buy something for supper. I last saw them wandering off in search of a butcher. None of the passers-by recognised the tiny blonde in the baggy coat. Jane Horrocks didn't seem to mind that at all.

Hunting Venus, tonight, 9pm, ITV

Closing time, gentlemen, please

THE VERY idea of a Status Quo pub tour seems appropriate. After all, the East End boys made good have done little more than purvey the most straightforward boogie for more than 30 years now. The idea of playing a series of dates

for long-serving fan club members in such venues as this - a shrine to heavy rock where the likes of Iron Maiden started out on their road to world domination - makes a lot of sense. Basic music in basic surroundings - it has to be better than vile barns such as the NEC and the Wembley Arena, venues that positively discourage drinking and dancing, and generally getting any. er, rocks off.

The Nineties have hardly been kind to the Quo. Hits have tailed off, and their attempt to sue Radio 1 in 1995 after a pretty limp remake of "Fun Fun Fun" with the Beach Boys was left off the play list (a bemused

POP STATUS QUO RUSKIN ARMS. MANOR PARK, LONDON

Brian Wilson was seen on The Des O'Connor Show, skulking at the back and looking as if he'd rather be in rehab than on stage), came across to many as a publicity stunt that backfired. But although their appeal may have become more, uh, selective over the years, they're still as much a part of British culture as jellied eels and the Queen Murn, two other things that many people could happily do without.

Their influence, however, is undeniable, if unconscious. How many aspiring musicians must have watched them on Top of the Pops, thought "I could do that" and improved on the template? At the height of the Britpop Wars, the Quoasis T-shirt sold by the Mancunian pretenders was a knowing nod to detractors.

The "home of heavy metal" must be smaller than the rooms Quo rehearse in. But the crowd - clearly unaware of denim's unfashionability lapped them up in their natural surroundings. For at a distance of 30ft or less, these 50-somethings still rock, or boogie at least.

Francis Rossi (as ever sporting a ponytail and grandad shirt) looked more comfortable than his long-time cohort Rick Parfitt (tanned, wearing a gold guitar pendant, and looking less than awed by his surroundings). "Again and Again", "Sweet Caroline", a medley including "Mystery Song" and "Wild Side of Life" that defies critical analysis were all neat, noisy and intact.

Yet the years roll on. An unexceptional "Rocking All Over The World", which must have funded a few law-



Status Quo's influence is undeniable if unconscious

American curmudgeon John Fogerty, seems perfunctory. As they rushed through a verse each of Fifties rock'n'roll classics as an encore, you

suits for its author, the legendary felt time closing in on them. Ashes to

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

Whoops! **Apocalypse**

DREAMING BEGINS with cannonfire: Boom Boom, Later. "There's a fly in my soup." "Tll get a spider." Boom Boom. This is the kind of juxtapo-

sition Peter Barnes loves. Irreverence is his trustiest weapon, and, as the lead character Mailory says, "nothing is sacred or powerful unless you make it so". Thus Christ steps off a crucifix to kvetch about his father, and Skelton, who longs for death, rails against the spring: "All that renewal." Barnes's model tone, and im-

agery, draws upon the sardonic grotesquerie of Brueghel and Bosch and this new play is set in the apocalyptic closure of the Middle Ages, specifically after the Battle of Tewkesbury 1471. The Wars of the Roses pauses to gasp for breath, and Mallory, a saddened captain, sets off for home. His companions are the reluctant survivor Skelton, Davy, a mercenary boy, Bess who knows the world is too weary for her hard-bitten wisdom, and later Kell, a priest who has defrocked himself

Although the home and family Mallory abandoned have been destroyed, Mallory continues what becomes a metaphorical quest in which home becomes "Home". Acquiring a new wife on the way, he and his band battle on.

They traverse an horrific, symbolic landscape brilliantly realised in Stephen Brimson-Lewis's design, with its glass floor where the dismembered dead are buried like specimens in a case. Under Alan Burrett's lighting this becomes by turns a skating lake, a swamp and a river. Even so the play's allegorical weight becomes hard to bear, not least because the work contradicts itself in To 10 April (0161-833 9833)

THEATRE DREAMING ROYAL EXCHANGE

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both style and substance. Skelton says life is a journey; Davy says it is a race: Bess says it is a dance. Led by her, they then perform a beautiful little sand shuffle. In that hint of Wilson, Keppel and Betty is the irreverence again, and dancing which is graceful, pointless and stays on one spot is the right metaphor for this vision.

But Barnes finally lays more stress on Mallory's sacred journey, and despite Gerard Murphy's imposing, welted presence, the character is empty, has little to say and ends as a surprisingly romantic hero silent upon a snowy peak, fixed forever in the icy fastness of the purity of his vision. If ever there was a moment for Boom Boom-or Bert Brecht - this is it.

Yet when the comic cannonfire is at its thickest there are plenty of misses. In the first. long 70 minutes, although Barnes's extravagant imagination is pedalling hard, and the costumes waving frantically, director Matthew Lloyd never seems to lift the show to a manic enough level. The best moments are in the acting: Greg Hicks's saturnine Skelton, Paul Jesson's pained joviality as Kell, Richard Bremmer's lanky Crouchback and, best of all, a performance of wonderful ease and subtlety from Dilys Laye as Bess, really the play's most interesting character - its true Mother Courage.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

The Passion retold in minimalist form

JONATHAN HARVEY is a composer whose range of interests includes the Sanskrit Rig Veda, electronic music, Stockhausen and the theosophy of Rudolf Steiner. On Thursday at St John's Smith Square, however, the focus of his work turned powerfully on to a subject whose resonance is as old as it is central to the European tradition: the Easter story.

At this time of year, choirs and orchestras need no excuse to tell out the myth as superbly recounted in Handel's Messich or the Bach Passions. Easter, after all, is the essential Christian festival, and what with the re-paganisation of Christmas into a mid-winter orgy, perhaps the only one that remains uniquely spiritual in

CLASSICAL JONATHAN HARVEY

ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE LONDON

its concern with the full meaning of the Incarnation. Top marks, none the less, to those valiant upholders of contemporary music, Sinfonia 21, for daring to programme a modern account of the Passion, Harvey's religious drama, Possion and Resurrection, written in 1981, and predating the revivalist mood of more recent works by so-called "faith minimalist" composers.

Passion and Resurrection began with the simplest of liturgical material: part of the communion rite from the Book of Common Prayer, "do this in remembrance of me", sung in by members of the BBC Singers, conducted by Martin Neary. The 11 sections that flowed from

this opening each followed the pattern of scene and interlude. Urgent telegraphic paraphrases of events in sung dialogue preceded no less pungently elliptical depictions of events set in terms of instrumental music. These latter, that of the seizing and binding of Christ, for example, were late-Stravinskian in flavour, feral bundles of biting and scratching solo strings set at odds with one another in registral extremes.

In contrast, the evening's other into the final episode, "The Resurcharacteristic sound was that of the musical "halo", whether of delicate John Merbecke's 16th-century setting violin harmonics enrobing the majestic voice of Stuart McIntyre's Jesus, or the shining organ clusters that accompanied the congregational singing of the plainsong hymns

Pange Lingua and Vexillo Regis. If Judas was for Elgar the figure of human interest in The Apostles, then for Harvey in Passion and Resurrection, it was Pilate who assumed a rounded dimension, in so far as the schematic form allowed. Tightly controlled, the drama, which existed as much in the pauses and violent dissolves between scenes as within them, was cumulative, resolving itself

rection Garden". Here, in music dominated by Alison Smart's Mary Magdalene, and the Tippett-like radiance of Christ's closing monologue, the crux of the story was apparent: physical regeneration not dreamed of in heaven, but occurring somewhere downstairs in our reality

Whether or not your disbelief was willingly suspended, the ending was impressive: a final blessing, then echoing fanfares from trombones, horns and tuba processing through the audience and outside, via church doors flung open to the four winds, the four elements, and the four imagined corners of the world.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

M I By David Line

Whoops

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End of the * winter of discontent?

Accused of lacklustre acting, mediocre direction and poor leadership, can the Royal Shakespeare Company recover its credibility? Artistic director Adrian Noble gives a rare interview to David Lister

he real dramas often take place backstage. One occurred at the Royal Shakespeare Company earlier this year Adrian Noble, by far the most shy and reserved of the institution's four artistic directors over the past 38 years, lost his cool.

It has been a difficult three years for Noble. He has endured what he considers to be a campaign of vitriol since he took the RSC away from London for six months of the year. Productions have been accused of mediocrity, the acting company has been accused of a lack of charisma, and Britain's foremost classical company has been accused of having an unclear policy platform.

Noble suffered in silence. He gave virually no interviews, though privately he at bewildered at the lack of acknowledgement of his efforts to modernise the company and widen the repertoire; his plans to rebuild the main house in Britain for the benefit of audiences, actors and directors; and his success in taking the company to towns in Britain that had never seen the RSC.

Then one attack too many made even this most languid of individuals blow a fuse. A Sunday newspaper critic wrote that the company had suffered a dismal falling-off and could not attract top-class actors or directors and that there were fatal flaws in leadership. Noble wrote to him at his home address saying he was "angry and appalled", and flayed him for "unattributed

titile-tattle, inaccuracies and half-truths". When I met Adrian Noble in his office at the Barbican for his first wide-ranging interview for a long time, he was still resentful about the criticism. However, the e-too-familiar glow of consistently good reviews for the company's opening shows brings a lustre to the "new confidence and

vigour" he discerns in the company. "I have been radical in what I have done," he said, "but I have had three years of criticism. And, yes, I do believe it is because of my decision to move the compa-



"The critics are against modernisation. It has been a bumpy three years. The agenda was to create new energy. I believe that was a vital task. We can now programme more flexibly and tackle issues more creatively in terms of casting, touring and repertoire.

"The fact that it created ructions internally and externally is no surprise. I did find it surprising that a lot of journalists found it difficult to address the broader agenda. I think there has been a feeding frenzy in the press at the expense of the RSC which has led to quite a number of unjust attacks on its productions and actors.

"Stephen Poliakoff says that if he does a play at the National Theatre, they write about the play. At the RSC, half of the review is about the RSC's policy. There's no question that the critics' agenda is our leaving London. But what we have done has become government policy.

opened up the repertoire."

Most importantly, not just for what it says about the repertoire but for what it says coaxed into Shakespeare, Noble is insistent pauses for a long time.



on his whole philosophy, his production of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. "We did a lot of research on *Lion* and it attracted 80,000 newcomers. Of those, 60 per cent were youngsters. It's fantastically important to get young people into the theatre, to own it, to celebrate it Lion has been amazingly good for the company. In the main house, we always had just Shakespeare and we rarely did anything that was just for families. From now on, every season will have something purely for the fam-

It is, on the one hand, a depressing admission that despite the euphoria surrounding Shakespeare in Love, the real thing now needs gateway family shows to draw in new audiences. But on the other "The Government is interested in qual-hand, if the productions are as well received. I would like, as part of our rebuild, to have ity, but also in who sees the work. I've never as The Lion, the Witch and the Wordrobe an education centre in Stratford. Imagine regretted the decision to leave London. It's and The School for Scandal, then it could be an effective route into Shakespeare.

Should we not be absolutely honest and admit that it is becoming harder to get auabout how audiences now need to be diences to come to Shakespeare? Noble

"Look, Shakespeare is trickier than Bhir. But it's to do with how we teach people at school. Shakespeare isn't easy stuff for young people. Of course it isn't. Theatregoing needs to be a habit and teaching

needs to be as imaginative as possible." On the latter point, he intends to lead the way. Last week, the RSC received a basketful of good notices for both Volpone and A Midsummer Night's Dream. But for Noble the most significant event of the week related to his vision of the company's educational role. He signed up Clare Venables, principal of the Brit School of Performing Arts and Technology and former director of the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, as his new head of education. It is a high-profile appointment that af-

firms his new and wider remit. Noble becomes visibly excited as he says: "We will have demonstrations, lectures and many more show-related events. one you could spend a day in: in the morn- Richard III. ing do a voice session with Cicely Berry, see Romeo and Juliet in the afternoon, then pull down from the digital archive four versions of Romeo and Juliet. Of course,

ten to Peggy Ashcroft do it, then talk about it. The tip of the iceberg is the performance. At the moment we have no education centre; we hire a church hall. It's pathetic."

On stage, one of the more hurtful criticisms must have been that the standard of verse-speaking had fallen. Noble came into the job in 1991 pledged to improve versespeaking. He acknowledges the difficulties caused by the lack of proper classical training in drama schools. But he has instigated the most intensive work on versespeaking in the company's history-weekly three and a half-hour verse-speaking workshops for the entire company. And while it is hard not to look back nostalgically just a few years to a company that included Simon Russell Beale, Robert Stephens, John Wood and Amanda Root, Noble is adamant that the new arrangements are attracting high-calibre actors again.

Some critics have detected a change in Lindsay's show-stealing tour de force as tion will rally round.

personalities of all the cast were comple-same ownership of the RSC." menting what Bob was doing. The summer season is the centre of our work, and that's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Vol-

companies we have had in Stratford for 38 years."

And what of those who disagree, arguing that at times the quality does not run right through the company, a point made in private by directors as well as critics? "I don't know how to answer that." says Noble. "I didn't find that in the company that did The Tempest or The Merchant of

Venice. I watched the run-throughs of

Volpone and the actors were wonderful." After a long and steady battering, Noble can now look with satisfaction at the statistics. Three years after "leaving" London. the RSC has in the past year been seen by more people at various London venues than it was over a similar period in its fulltime Barbican days, and the new Stratford season has taken £2m in bookings.

"The company is demonstrating great vigour and self-confidence," he says. And, casting himself a trifle bizarrely as a dracompany ethos, most notably in Robert matic Kevin Keegan, he believes the na-

"I don't go to football, but I support the "I think it's unfair," says Noble. "The national team. I want people to feel that

you'd do Baz Luhrmann, but you'd also lis- a company that's no different from the pone at the RSC Stratford (01789 295623)

ON THE FRINGE

STAND UP OLD RED LION III UP AGAINST THE WALL TRICYCLE LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT ORANGE TREE

WHEN SO much hustling and tussling goes on in the dressing-room, it's surprising that performers and productions ever make it to the stage. It's more astonishing still when, going by the shambolic rehearsals for a blaxploitation musical depicted in Up Against the Wall and the bitchiness of a shabby comedy club in Stand-Up, life on the fringe is such a painful one.

Hopefully. Roy Smiles didn't extract his material from his experience as a comedian and compère when writing Stand-Up. Most of his characters are obnoxious egoists. The unhappy clown is a much-used motif, but Smiles doesn't settle for easy clichés; however bitter his comedians feel about their audiences, careers and lives off stage, it can't decrease the buzz they get from performing. The gritty script is littered

with recriminations, shocks and regrets. On one level, it simply compares the perilous ambition and heartlessness of the successful comedians Linda and Tony with the newcomer Debbie's natuete and the circuit regular Mal's combination of stoicism and defeatism. The fact that these people can put their real feelings aside, go on stage and make others laugh is as depressing as it is remarkable.

More impressively, Stand-Up is an emotive panegyric to the things people will do to survive. Harry, the club's gibbonish barman ta lithe Robert Murray), is reduced to unblocking excrement from the ladies' toilet because he needs a job. His incredulous remark that "I come from a shit hole. but you don't expect it to be a life sentence" resonates grimh:



'Up Against the Wall'

Roy Marsden's sharp, engrossing production is beautifully acted by a cast who look at home, yet uncomfortable in Nina Garner's painstakingly designed, skanky dressingroom. There aren't many laughs but, when they come, they rattle with irony and gleam with poignancy. As Smiles's own mockney club owner might put it, this one's a corker.

Up Against the Wall at Kilburn's industrious Tricycle Theatre is heaps of fun but less dramatically successful. Felix Cross and Paulette Randall ciaim that drama isn't the point of their irreverent musical about putting on a musical; like the play within, it's simply an excuse for the actors to don Afros and flares and sing hits from the Seventies, which they

do exceptionally well. This would be more believable were the script less carefully contrived. There's no stinting on corniness as the lyrics to each song are made relevant to a character's life. The tone grows questionably moralistic when Clinton Blake's drunken director Courtenay bursts into his production wearing a preacher's gown and takes a spliff from the mouth of the bumptious actor Vincent,

otherwise vibrantly performed by Mark McLean.

Thought-provoking moments are few but piquant, particularly Vincent's spinetingling paean to Brixton. which shifts into a topical but gentle rap about police racism. If the crowd were so inclined, the night could develop into one rollicking party, but Black Theatre Co-operative's lighthearted production needs more

By contrast, Low Flying Aircraft, the second production from the Orange Tree's new company, is almost too serious in its endeavour to criticise modern life. In its formidable future, London is an annexe to Heathrow Airport, inhabited by disturbed people who control every waking moment with pills. Lianne and Cody's minimalist home, elegantly designed by Tim Meacock, is at once a haven from the planes that roar and flash overhead and a prison of fraught and misunderstood emotions.

Jane Coles's characters are intriguing and Jeremy Crutchley's dislikeable but riveting Cody holds an unsettling power over them all; his mind games with Sarah Tansey's irritating Tara bristle with tension in Dominic Hill's edgy production. But the surreal denonement is unconvincing and the chilly nature of the play doesn't encourage emotional engagement with the

MADDY COSTA

'Stand-Up' (0171-837 7816), to 17 Apr; Up Agoinst the Wall' (0171-328 1000), to 17 Apr., Low Flying Aircraft' (0181-940 3633). in rep to 24 Apr

To mike or not to mike

The National Theatre is facing a huge scandal over its use of microphones. And not just for musicals. Whatever happened to proper acting? By David Benedict

EARS WERE pricking up yesterday at the shock news that actors performing in the National Theatre's Olivier auditorium are now required to wear radio microphones.

The most astonishing thing about this is that this technological "advance" has been established practice in this venue for at least 18 months. This means that either actors there have been barred from discussing it (deeply unlikely) or that there is more to this story than meets the ear. The idea of using gadgetry to com-

pensate for poor vocal technique goes against everything the profession holds sacred. Directors who refuse to go "on the record" - they want employment at the National in the future - have expressed outrage. The voice, they rightly argue, is at the heart of dramatic expression. Learning to breathe properly to

project sound, and combining that with clarity of diction in order to "hit the back wall", is central to actors' training. Is it really time to say goodbye to all that, as would appear to be the case with the news that Trevor Nunn's production of Troilus and Cressida is wired for sound? Miking a singer to compete with an amplified rock band in a musical is one thing, but Shakespeare?

It was in fact Num's predecessor, Richard Eyre, who began this. He temporarily closed the Olivier to redesign it for an in-the-round season in 1997 and at the same time fitted the System for Improved Acoustic Performance (SIAP)

As the National's sound designer Paul Groothuis explains, this system, installed around the walls, manipu-



to do with intelligibility. It merely the Olivier."

Nearly every theatre in the country has dead spots, and the vast Olivier is no exception. Even the most perfectly produced voice cannot be easily heard from certain parts of the auditorium. If you clap or say a word, you produce an echo. In the Olivier, the reverberation from the initial sound tends to drown out the echo, thus muddying the effect. You cannot reduce the echo but SIAP clarifies the effect by enhancing the proportions of the latter sound. The admittedly convincing argu-

ment runs that it is no longer good enough to pretend that there aren't acoustically bad seats in the auditorium. The benefits, Groothuis be-

lates the sound. "It has got nothing lieves, are enormous. "It becomes more comfortable to listen to. Peocorrects the acoustical problems of ple can then concentrate harder and longer, and understand more."

The downside is that the microphones have to be in prominent places and are very sensitive. That places enormous limitations on the use of stage machinery as even a low hum can destroy the effect. In tandem with SIAP, all sorts of solutions were sought but Groothuis believes that, much as he hates them -"they're a pain in the arse" - radio mikes seem to be doing the best job. Both directors and the whole

sound department were nervous at broaching the idea of mikes with actors as vocally strong as, say, lan McKellen, who wore one for An Enemy of the People. "There is initial shock," admits Groothuis, but he friends and associates, they realise that this is not a case of amplification beyond recognition.

claims that after reports back from

"I don't amplify. It's about distributing the sound around the auditorium, putting the actor's voice in a box and moving it to the back of the auditorium." He does, however, concede that they occasionally nudge the sound level up. "But only for crucial technical reasons. If an actor turns upstage. I would never do it with an actor facing the audience." For him, it is a technical tool, somewhat akin to using a sound effect like adding a cavernous echo. So far, so good, but the danger is that we may be on the edge of a precipice. In this theatre, the system may currently be used responsibly to overcome architectural shortcomings, but what of the future?

It's similar to the opera surtitles debate. Projecting text above the stage is clearly a boon for those who don't know an opera, but it stops you watching the action. In which case, why should a singer struggle to communicate real drama when he or she could just stand and deliver?

Theatre is increasingly reliant on screen stars, many of whom have small voices at best. If someone on the sound desk can twiddle knobs in order to lift their performance into a different realm, there's little in-

centive to work to reach an audience. Everything depends on the subtlety of its application. In America, theatre has succumbed to wholesale amplification. Let's hope the National's usage of it doesn't signal the beginning of the end.

GB

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pages 15-18

My stage in the City what happens to 'nice boys'?

I WORK FOR...

JOANNA FYVIE IS PA TO JOHN TUSA, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE BARBICAN CENTRE IN LONDON

iving graduated in I was torn between the two subjects, but my first job made the decision for me when I was made junior secretary to Jeremy Isaacs at the Royal Opera House.

It was an amazing introduction. I learnt how to be a sounding-board and I realised the importance of allowing bosses to do their job by giving them an environment in which they can be themselves, vent their frustration and express their enthusiasm. Jeremy was demanding, especially since he always needed everything done immediately, but I respected his energy, drive, directness of thought and broad range of interests - an aspect that John shares. I certainly got a taste for working with VIPs.

My next job was a two-year stint with the managing director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The temperament of an orchestra is quite different from that of an opera house, particularly when it is nomadic. I had to deal with 150 people, which made it hard to make attachments. It was also sometimes difficult to communicate financial or strategic issues to the players.

I moved to the Barbican just after John had been brought in to rebuild the centre in terms of both Secretary of State for Culture, Media confidence and artistic structure. I knew there would be high expect- coming to the launch, and we already ations and I was almost overwhelmed by the vastness of the centre; but I was attracted by the amount of artistic achievement it involved in John's soon-to-beoffers, both visually and musically. I was surprised that John was present at my first interview, because I hadn't expected to meet him at all at that stage. He struck me as being fits into life. I've followed the book's genuinely interested in me as a person rather than just a recruit.

There's always an opportunity to learn with John, partly because he has such a broad range of interests. He communicates well with me. whether it's when he's briefing me or sharing ideas. As we've built up our working relationship, he has started to include me in his thought processes. Three years on, I think

he has realised my potential. Feeling able to give my opinion when it's appropriate has enriched my work and I have realised that, as and Paul Findlay - my former boss a PA at this level, I have a duty to from the Royal Philharmonic - to the ask why some things are deemed to wedding. They both came, and I was be so important. Questioning is glad that they were there. crucial when working with a VIP because once you can understand the ministration assistant, John told way someone thinks, you begin to know how to work autonomously. There's a lot I am now able to do on turned out to be my double. I must my own, including drafting be doing something right. responses. John gave me an appraisal the other day and I realised

how much I genuinely love being a French and music, PA and the sense of fitting in to this environment. Even answering the post gives me a broad range of people to speak to, from arts world people to City executives.

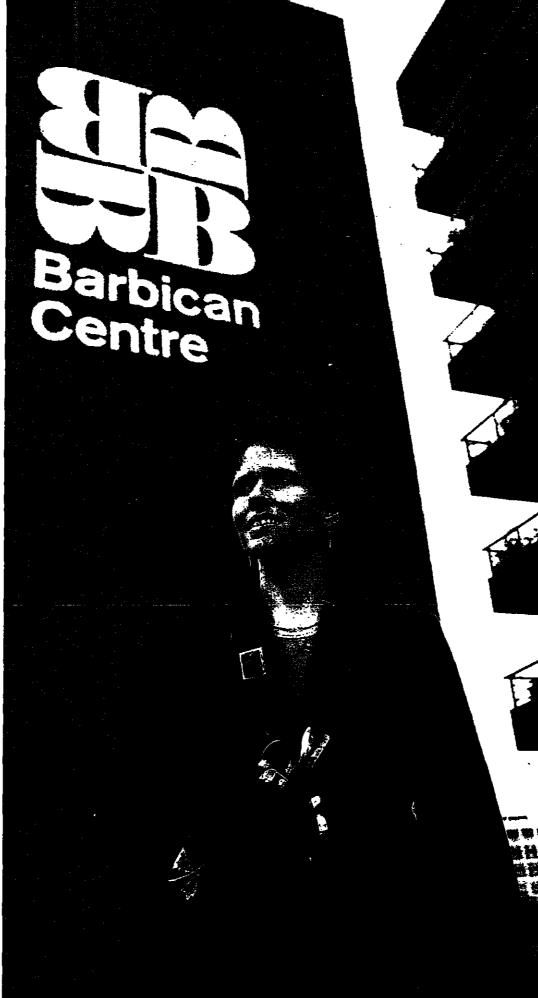
The phone is a constant, particularly now that the Shadow Arts Council has just been announced with Sir Peter Hall as chair and John as one of two vice-chairmen. I was aware of the idea evolving and had a sense of people saying something important about diversity and freedom of opinion in the arts. There's been loads of interest in the new organisation, particularly as it represents a group of people who came together informally when they felt that the arts were not being adequately reflected in the public arena or relevant institutions. The support panel includes Jeremy Isaacs, which is lovely because it means that we stay in touch.

Last week we also launched "Cityside", a new name to describe the area the Barbican is in. This concept was the result of a meeting between John and the heads of Sadler's Wells and City University during which they complained that while we have terms such as "West End" and "South Bank" there has never been a title for this general area, despite the fact that it is full of art and culture. Chris Smith. and Sport, gave his approval by have widespread support and enthusiasm from people in the area.

For the last two years I have been published book called Art Matters, in which he deals with a whole range of art-related subjects including funding, and where culture progress both by typing out some of the manuscripts and by attending some of the lectures from which the essays have been taken.

John and I share a sense of humour, which I delight in. I feel that there is a high that comes from our working relationship and rapport as well as from organising things such as receptions for important people in the arts world. I got married last year and although I see family and work as quite separate, it was natural to me that I should invite him

When we were looking for an adme be had a dream that I walked into the office with the new assistant, who



KATTE SAMPSON Joanna Fyvie: 'Three years on, I think John has realised my potential'

Mark Chilvers

SO MY mother gets on the phone and has one of her periodical bouts of sighing and wondering what happened to all the nice young men I used to know when I was at school. It's fimny how quickly

parental fantasy kicks in; the nice young men she remembers are her friends' sons, and boys she approved of, who lived around the village and spent their holidays playing tennis and killing small animals - rather than the ones who spent their holidays sitting on the bench at the bus stop, smoking. Once I'd got my Saturday job and had enough cash to get into town, I didn't really know boys of either sort, having discovered others who sat around in basements coming down from their exposure to the club scene the night before. But my mum longs for the Ruperts and Rolys, and has convinced herself that these were my social circle then.

So she asks what happened to them all, the implication being that I've gone down in the world; and I think about saying, "Well, Mum, they're either using the furnituremaking or horticultural skills they learnt in the frightfully expensive rehab clinics they ended up in after three years at Oxford, or they're getting up at 6am and putting on suits, and are looking from companionship either with women who are on similar income levels or with ones have dedicated their lives to learning the skills that make them an ideal helpmeet. What they don't want to be doing is hanging around with chicks who spend their time filling in for other people's holidays.' But I just say something palliative about how people lose touch, and let her drift off to prume the roses.

In fact, there was an occupation I missed off the list. and that's estate agency. I should have remembered it, as I'm putting in time at the moment with South Kensington's premier realtor (their words, not mine), Investment Estates, and I can bonestly say that I had no idea you could fit so many plums in one mouth without choking. I know estate agents had a tough time of it in the recession, but they've bounced

back now, with a vengeance. And not surprisingly, the upper classes have, after all, to find something to do with their less gifted younger sons now



that the Church doesn't deal in

tied livings much any more. And besides, the sort of people who are looking for a nice house in the Pelham Street area are still generally of the make-up that has problems trusting people with an accent So I find myself working for

four snakelike professionals

whose lack of accent is so

powerful that I find myself jumping out of my skin every time one of them shouts "Yah!!" These people are so accentless that most of their words run together in a big jumble because they've forgotten both to take time to breathe or to use consonants: if you remember the late Diana, Princess of Wales's pronouncement that her premarital job was looking after a mera bay boy" you'll get the basic drift. I don't know what my mum would have to say about these young scamps. but no one really seems to do much apart from fight each other to answer the phone when it rings in case it's someone calling to offer them a weekend involving fresh air and guns, and occasionally saunter from the office twirling a set of keys round their index fingers and come back a bit later with a stack of insults about the client.

I do a bit of light typing ("Superb three-bedroom mansion flat ideally situated for the shopping amenities of Brompton Cross and close to the open spaces of Hyde Park") and a bit of light telephone-answering "Good morning, Investment Estates. can I help you?"). I think I'm in for an easy ride. There's one problem, though, and that's the name game. I can cope with Henry, Charlie and Caro, but I still have to fight the urge to giggle when anyone rings and asks for Candida. Maybe the name runs in her family, but I suspect that Candida's parents, coming from a class that calls its daughters all sorts of vogueish things, may have just thought it sounded nice. Maybe, just maybe, they called her sisters Eczema, Psoriasis and Salmonella for the same reason.

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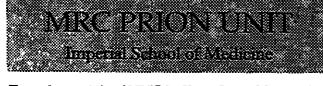
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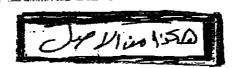
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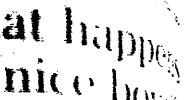
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Festen (15)

horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKeilen), who

(Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an

a favourite Fifties sittom and begin to exert a

comedy centres on the 60th birthday of a family

Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and

fatalism stars Nick Notice as a man struggling to

Two Nineties teenagers are magicked into the world of

dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white

Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black

patriarch who finds himself at the heart of dark secrets

escape the influence of his violent dad - James Coburn,

ANTHONY OUINN .

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

6.45pm, 9pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

ODEON LEKCESTER SQUARE

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

ODEON MEZZANINE

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

ODEON WEST END

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

NEW FILMS

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18) **Director:** Tony Kaye

Starring: Edward Norton, Edward Furlong American History X was always going to look messy; a film in bits and pieces. A liberal essay on brother. The flashbacks sometimes jar, and the plot ready charm that's hard to dislike. turns are clankingly handled. What binds it together is a genuine tour de force from Oscar-nominated Norton, whose full-throttle muscularity clearly scared wavering Academy members over to the more sunny charms of Roberto Benigni.

West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West And local cinemas

AN AUTURIN TALE (CONTE D'AUTOMNE) (U) Director: Eric Rohmer

Starring; Seatrice Romand, Alain Libott The final part of Rohmer's Toles of the Four Seasons is at once airily elegiac and as warm as sunshine. Magali (Beatrice Romand) - middle-aged and single - gets ushered through all manner of hoops as her friends try to set her up with eligible men, nudging her first towards suave college professor (Didier Sandre), then towards a lonelyhearts respondent (the brilliant Alain Libolt) as the web of intrigue turns progressively more tangled. Don't be put off by the Mills and Boon plot-line.

soul takes the breath away. West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, suburban homes and gardens. Here, the bairns Curzon Soho, Renoir. Repertory: Phoeniz find themselves adrift in a deep, dark forest, Inema. The Pullman Everyman

Rohmer's latest is a veritable masterpiece of

dabbed-on colours, fluid squiggles and luminous

washes. Its little gestures speak volumes; its easy

GODS AND MONSTERS (15)

AFFLICTION (15)

West End: ABC Swiss Centre

West End: Metro, Renoir

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)

And local cinemas

CENTRAL STATION (15)

the boy's missing father.

West End: Cur≥on Soho

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House. Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road, Local: New Stratford Picture House

See The Independent Recommends, above.

Afnale that's both ridiculous and charming.

Mark Pellington's paranoia thriller sees Jeff

Bridges' college professor becoming suspicious

too few changes in the film's familiar territory.

West End: ABC Shafteshury Avenue, Clapham

Picture House, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Swiss

Pulitzer Prize-winner stars Oprah Winfrey.

West End: Ritzy Cinema. And local cinemas

Renoir, Ritzy Cinema. Repertory: Watermans

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK(15)

Shirley Valentine with an Afro-American spin:

Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression

West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA È BELLA) (PG)

In Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning comedy, the

writer-director takes centre stage as a clownish

Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. Sent to a death-

camp, he strives to convince his son that it's all

Welt End: Empire Leicester Square. Curzon

Mnuma, Odcon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema. Screen on Baker Street, UCI

Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

Kattan is so bovine it moos. Here come our imbe-

West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

This medical drama is like the ultimate

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)

among the tourist-brochure visuals.

n 'nore than an eccentric game.

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above.

MIGHTY JOE (PG) Director: Ron Underwood

Starring: Bitl Paxton, Charlize Theron Disowned by its director, re-edited by its star. Mighty Joe is a mutant gorilla - King Kong with a smile - who hangs out in the jungles of Africa with his Tarzan-type protector (Charlize Theron). Enter right-wing fanaticism, this nonetheless includes in zoologist Bill Paxton, who decides to spirit Joe some dubious Nazi chic as it charts the moral slide to California, at which point Ron Underwood's and spasmodic conversion of a blue-collar racist holiday jaunt diverts down standard chase-genre (Edward Norton), watched by his adoring younger avenues. Disposable Disney fluff, which boasts a

> West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys. And local cinemas

PAYBACK (18) Director: Brian Helgeland

Starring: Mel Gibson

This rumbling revenge thriller sends its doublecrossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to retrieve the money be's owed, and get even into the bargain. The ensuing shenanigans are played out in a kind of retro-chic Seventies and underpinned by a busy jazz-funk soundtrack. Ambling through the saga, Gibson rubs lots of designer grime into his clean-cut screen image. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U) Director: Igor Kovalvov

Voices: E G Daily, Christine Cavanaugh Given the small-screen success of the 'rats, a feature-length foray was always in the offing. Neatly timed to hit the Easter hols, The Rugrats Movie shifts its horizons beyond the usual bonding with monkeys and tangling with a slavering wolf. Kids, no doubt, will eat this up. Adults should simply grin and bear it.

West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

CINEMA

ABC PICCADILLY

5.45pm, 8.40pm El 1.40pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm Elizabeth ABC SWISS CENTRE

1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm La Vie Revee des Anges (The Dream Life of Angels) 1.45pm. 4.05pm, 6.25pm,

BARBICAN SCREEN

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

CURZON MAYFAIR

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) • Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 3pm. CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm))

Deicester Square/fottenham
Court Road An Autumn Tale
(Conte d'Automne) 2.15pm,
4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm Festen
(The Celebration) 12.30pm,
5pm, 7.45pm Gods
and Monsters 2.45pm, 7.15pm,
9.30pm Seul Contre Tous
(1 Stand Alone) 1.45pm, 3.45pm,
5.45pm, 9.45pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) Notting Hill Gate Gods and Monsters 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

(0171-734 1506) Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Aprile 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Southpaw 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill Gate Arlington Road 3.15pm, 8.35pm Central Station (Central

Troifus and Cressida

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

(Olivier, NT, London)

This play and this theatre are made for each other, a fact proved by the masterly sweep of Trevor Nunn's production. To 19 May

Gross Indecency (Gielgud Theatre, London) The artfully fractured form of Moises Kaufman's compelling play (right) about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer - man and symbol - in all his complex contradictoriness. Booking to 5 Jun

Trust (Royal Court Upstairs at the Ambassadors, London) It's not Protestants vs Catholics, but Protestants at violent odds with one another in Gary Mitchell's timely and involving Ulster thriller. To 3 Apr

(Swan Theatre, Stratford) Comedies don't come any funnier or more astringent than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism. To 9 Oct

The Late Middle Classes (Palace Theatre, Watford) The fruitful collaboration between Simon Gray and

Harold Pinter continues with the latter's production of

Gray's dark comedy, set in Fifties England. To 10 Apr

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery) Big retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master). The build-up is slow and the end is sorry, but the brief "drip" period deserves every superlative. To 6 Jun

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery)

The modern object-world made luminous. Caulfield is a virtuoso of many styles, and this retrospective offers the range - notably those fat, laconic outlines flooded with translucent colour. To 11 Apr

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery) Some of the most intense portraiture ever (right). Exquisite mélanges of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr

Andreas Gursky

uniquely sinuous, florid line. To 11 Apr

(Dean Gallery, Edinburgh) Photographs 1994-98; huge, panoramic, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally-manipulated images of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. To 10 May

Aubrey Beardsley (Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool) The short and brilliant career of the 1890s aesthete and illustrator, with his masterful blacks and whites and his

EDMONTON

TOM LUBBOCK

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) & Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Enemy of the State 1.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm Hilary and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm π (Pi) 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm,

(0171-287 4322) © Piccadilly Circus Loved 6.25pm Very Bad Things 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Your Friends and Neighbors 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 8.45pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) & Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Arlington Road 1.05pm, 3.25pm,

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) + Tottenham Court Road Gods and Monsters
1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.55pm,
9.25pm Payback 1.45pm,
4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm 9.25pm Payback 1.4 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9. Waking Ned 1.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm

(0171-638 8891) • Moorgate /Barbican An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) 6.15pm, 8.40pm Waking Ned 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) ⊕ Sloane Square An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

(0171-498 3323) O Clapham Common American History X 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Arlington Road 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Gods and Morsters 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Waking Ned 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

(0171-369 1720) Green Park Central Station (Central do Brasil) 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

PLAZA (0990-888990) & Picc Circ Arlington Road 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Pleasantville 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 12.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm (0171-734 2255 (12ngon-6pm))

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) & Russell
Square Aprile 4.40pm, 9pm An
Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne)
1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm,
8.45pm Central Station (Central
do Brasil) 1.20pm, 6.40pm 5.45pm, 9.45pm RITZY CINEMA

RTIZY CINEMA
(0171-733 2229) BR/O Brixton
American History X 2pm,
4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm Le
Bossu 1.40pm A Bug's Life
11.30am Central Station
(Central do Brasil) 2.15pm,
4.35pm, 6.55pm Life is Beautiful
(La Vita è Bella) 1.45pm,
6.45pm Piessantville 9.20pm
Seul Conpre Buis di Stand Alone) Seul Contre Yous (I Stand Alone)
4pm, 6pm Shakespeare in Love
4.15pm, 9.15pm The Thin Red
Line 8pm Waking Ned 3pm,
5pm 7pm 9pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) & Baker St Life is Beautiful (La Vica è Bella) 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Waking Ned 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

5pm, 7pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) ⊕ Angel/ Highbury & Islington Waking Ned 3.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(08705-050007) & Camden Town
American History X 12.10pm,
2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Payback
11.45am, 2.05pm, 4.20pm,
6.35pm, 8.55pm Pleasantville
12.20pm The Thin Red Line
3.20pm, 7.45pm This Year's Love
4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm Waking
Ned 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm,
6.45om, 9om 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm UCI WHITELEYS

SCREEN ON THE HILL

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) ← Piccadilly Circus This Year's Love 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm American History X 1pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Arlängton Road 3.50pm, 9.20pm Arlängton Road 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm A Bug's Life 1.15pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 12.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Mighty Joe 1.45pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm Payback 11.45am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm The Thin Red Line 8.40pm Wiaking Ned 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.45pm

Red Line 1.25pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm Walding Ned 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm VIRGIN CHELSEA VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) & Sloane Square American History X 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm A Bug's Life 11.40am, 1.50pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Madeline 12.30pm The Rugrats Movie 11.20am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Waking Ned 12.45pm, 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 8.30pm

(08705-050007) © Marble Arch Mighty Joe 12.50pm, 3.20pm 5.55pm Payback 1.15pm, 3.45pm 6.30pm, 9.10pm The Rugrats Movie 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD 1.30pm, 8.30pm Statespeare in Love 12.55pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm The Thin Red Line 8.20pm Waking Ned 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 9.15pm (0870-907 0711) & South Arlington 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Gods and Monsters 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Payback 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in Love (08705-050007) & Leic Sq A Bug's Life 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Stepmom 12.30pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm The Thin Red Line 1.20pm, 5pm, 8.30pm You've Got M@II 2.40pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) & Piccadilly Circus American History X 2.20pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm Pleasantville 2pm, 4.50pm, 8pm

(08705-050007) \oplus Swiss Cottage American History X 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Arlington Road 3.05pm, 5.40pm, **VIRGIN TROCADERO** Arington Road 3.05pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm A Bug's Life 1.05pm Mighty Joe 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 5.55pm Payback 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Pleasantville 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Waking Ned 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm (0870-907 0716) © Piccadilly Circus Arlington Road 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Blast from the Past 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.50pm A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.10pm A Night at the Roxbury 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm Patch Adants 8.40pm Payback 12noon, 2.55pm, 5.55pm, 8.55pm The Rugrats Movie 11.40am, 1.35pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm Shakespeare in Love 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm You've Got M@ll 12.05pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm (0870-907 0716) O Piccadilly (08705-050007) \oplus Leicester Square Little Volce 8.55pm Mighty Joe 12.55pm, 3.25pm, 6pm Waking Ned 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9pm

5.35pm, 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) ⊕ Leic Square American History X 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm 9pm Arlington Road 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm The Opposite of Sex 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 7.25pm, 9.45pm Payback 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5pm, 7pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm Pleasantville 12noon, 3pm The Rugrats Mowle 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm Urban Legend 7.10pm, 9.40pm You've Got M@il 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm. WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-494 4153) ⊕ Picc Circ Blue Planet 12.35pm Everest 4.45pm, 9.05pm L5 - The First City in Space (3-D) 2.40pm, 7pm T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm, 10.10pm

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ACTON PARK
ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE
(0181-896 0066) & Park Royal
American History X 1pm. 3.30pm,
6.20pm, 9.10pm Antz 11.10am Anarcan History A. Hill. J. John. 6.20pm, 9.10pm Antz 11.10am. Arlington Road 11.20am. 2pm. 4.40pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Blast from the Past 7pm A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm Jack Frost 11.30am Madeline 11am. Mighty Joe 12.10pm. 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Patch Adams 4.20pm, 10pm Payback 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm The Rugrats Movie 10.50am, 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm The Tida Red Line 9.20pm Walking Ned 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm You've Got M@lf 1.40pm, 7pm

BARNET ODEON (08705-050007) + High ODEON (08705-050007) & High Barnet Arlington Road 3.40pm. 8.45pm A Bug's Life 12.45pm Mighty Joe 12.45pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Payback 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 7pm, 9pm The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2pm, 3.45pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 6.25pm Waking Ned 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 7pm 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9pm

BECKENHAM ABC (0870-902 0412) BR: Beck-

ABC (0870-902 0412) BK: Beck-enham Junction A Bug's Life 1.10pm, 3,25pm, 5.30pm Madeline 3,45pm Payback 1.10pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm Shake-speare in Love 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.40pm BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bexleyheath Arlington Road

7.25pm, 9.50pm Blast from the Past 5.10pm, 9.50pm A Bug's Life 11am, 1pm, 3.05pm, 5.15pm Dead Man's Curve 2.30pm, 9.45pm Jack Frost 11am Madeline 12.10pm, 2.10pm Mighty Joe 11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Patch Adams 12noon, 4.50pm, 7.20pm Payback 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 6.50pm, 7.50pm, 10pm, The Rugrats Movie 11.10am, 12.10pm, 1.05pm, 2.10pm, 3pm, 4.10pm, 5pm, 7pm Shakespeare in Love 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 9pm Waking Ned 12.05pm, 2.05pm, 4.05pm. 6.05pm, 8.05pm, 10.05pm You've Got M@il 12.25pm, 2.50pm, 7.30pm

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.05pm Made-line 12noon Mighty Joe 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Payback 2.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 12.20pm, 2.35pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Waking Ned 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

CATFORD ABC (0181-461 1278) BR: Catford. ABC (0181-461 1278) Bit Catrord. A Bug's Life 12.30pm Payback 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Ru-grats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm Urban Legend 8.40pm

CROYDON CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: West/East Croydon Hideous Kinky 3.45pm Shakespeare in Love 6pm, 8.30pm

FAIRFIELD HALLS (0181-688 9291) BR: East Croydon Saving Private Ryan 7.45pm The Siege 7.45pm SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon. Aarzoo 8pm Mighty Joe 5.30pm A Night at the Roxbury 8.10pm The Rugrats Movie

5.40pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Arlington Road 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm Blast from the Past 6.10pm A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 3.50pm Mighty Joe 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Patch Adams 4pm, 9.40pm Payback 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 4.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm The Thin Red Line 8.25pm Waking Ned 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm You've Got M@/II 1.20pm, 9.20pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) & Dagenham Heathway American History X 1.55pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Antz 12midnight Arilington Road 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Blast from the Past 6pm A Bug's Life 11am, 1.20pm, 3.50pm Jack Frost 11.55am Madeline 10.40am Mighty Joe 11.10am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Patch Adams 4.40pm, 9.50pm Payback 11.20am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 11.50pm The Rugrats Movie 10.50am, 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm The Thin Red Line 8.40pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592

VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (US 70-907 0719) ← Ealing Broadway Arlington Road 8.30pm Mighty Joe 2.15pm. 5pm Payback 2.05pm. 4.30pm. 6.50pm, 9.10pm The Rugrats Movie 2pm. 4.15pm. 6.15pm Stakespeare in Love 8.10pm

O Tottenham Hale American History X 1pm. 3.50pm, 6.45pm, 9.40pm Arlington Road 12.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.50pm Belowed 9pm Blast from the Past 4.40pm, 7.40pm A Bug's S. 159m Seasone Spin Bask 100m the Past 4.40pm, 7.40pm A Bug's Life 11am, 12noon, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm Jack Frost 10.30am Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Beila) 5.40pm, 8.30pm Madeline 11.15am, 1.20pm, 3.30pm Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Patch Adams 12.50pm, 10.10pm Payback 11am, 1.25pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Rugrats Movie 10.45am, 11.30am, 12.45pm, 1.45pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5.15pm, 6.10pm, 7.30pm, 8.20pm Shakespeare In Love 3.05pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 4.30pm, 8.10pm Waking Ned 11.45am, 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm You've Got M@il 8.50pm

LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990)

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) © Elephant & Castle Arlington Road 6pm, 8.30pm A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 3.30pm Madeline 2pm Mighty Joe 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Payback 4.15pm. 6.30pm, 8.40pm

FELTHAM CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-Service School of the Province Blast from the Past 11.30am, 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm A Bug's Life 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.50pm, 2.50pm, 2.50pm, 5pm International Khiladi 12.20pm, 3.40pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Jack Frost 11.40am Mighty Joe 11.10am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm A Night at the Roxbury 10pm Patch Adams 11.40am, 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Payback 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 7.50pm, 9.20pm, 10pm Pleasantville 11.10am, 1.40pm The Rugrats Movie 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 5pm, 5pm, 7.40pm, 5hakespeare in Love 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm The Thin Red Line 5.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm The Thin Red Line 6.10pm, 9.30pm Waking Ned 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm You've Got M@il 12noon, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm

NORTH FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) & East Finchley Antz 10.40am Arlington Road 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Blast from the Past 6.10pm A Bug's Life 10.30am, 12.50pm, 3.20pm Jack Frost 10.30am Life is Beautiful (La Prost 10.30am Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 9.40pm Madeline 11.20am Mighty Joe 10.30am, 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 7pm Patch Adams 3.30pm, 9.20pm Payback 2.10pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm The Prince of Egypt 10.35am The Rugrats Movie 11am, 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Shakespears in Jose 1,10pm, 4pm speare in Love 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 8.30pm Waking Ned 1.40pm, 6.50pm You've Got M@il 12.40pm, 6.20pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3059) & Finchley Road Arlington Road 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm A Bug's Life 1.45pm, 3.55pm Mighty Joe 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Patch Adams 6.35pm, 9.15pm Patch Adams
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Red Line 6.05pm, 9.25pm Waking
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ABC (0181-455 4134) ← Golders

GREENWICH GREENWICH CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Arlington Road 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mighty Joe 4pm, 6.15pm Payback 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm Shake-speare in Love 8.30pm

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3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Shakespeare in Love 8.40pm Waking Ned 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

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E BANGE

distillation of the ultimate Robin Williams movie: hife sucked out and replaced by syrup. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

PLEASANTVILLE (12)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza. Ritzy Cinema, Vargin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15) War drama, starring Tom Hanks.

Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning Second World West End: Plaza. Local: Croydon Fairfield Halls

Nanni Moretti's Aprile freewheels through three SEUL CONTRE TOUS (18)

GENERAL RELEASE

years in Italian politics. Impossible to pigeonhole, A sociopathic butcher (Phillipe Nahon) is pushed with its realist/absurdist rhythms, it bows out with over the edge when he finds out that someone has abused his daughter. Less straight cinema than a kind of whiplashing fairground ride, Seul Contre Nous is an undeniably attention-grabbing debut for the multi-talented director Gaspar Noé. West End: Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema

about his "respectable" neighbour (Tim Robbins). **SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)** See The Independent Recommends, above. Pellington is big on skewed camera angles, yet rings West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local

Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15) Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to the Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's director's chair is a fabulous, fever-struck war film. While a cast of familiar faces (John Travolta, Nick Nolte, George Clooney) vie for attention, all play a determined second fiddle to The Thin Red Line's

creeping narcotic mood. t road-movie of sorts. Central Station trails West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensinaton, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, her abandoned nine-year-old charge on a hunt for Virgin Fulham Road. Repertory: Watermans West End: Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Arts Centre. And local cinemas

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18) A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Douglas Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

URBAN LEGEND (18) A bland and inconsequential bloodbath: fresh-faced teens meeting their grisly end in a drama as cold and schematic as a daytime talk show.

West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

VERY BAD THINGS (18) Peter Perg's debut serves up swaggering grossout comedy in a Loaded magazine style but it has nowhere to go save from shrill to shriller to shrillest. West End: ABC Piccadilly, Warner Village West End

WAKING NED (PG)

Good news: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tully in rural Ireland has won the lottery. John Fortenberry's indulgent showcase for Bad news: Ned is dead. Cue a rattle-bag of Saturday Night Live favourites Will Ferrell and Chris comedic misadventure as two local scallywags scheme to get their paws on the loot. The film cilic heroes: cruising the mall-spaces of LA, while has a zesty undertow of black comedy but is too one ham fisted comedy sequence follows another: air-brushed for its own good.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Suriss Cottage, Odeon West End. Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG) Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan star in a romance zapped

out of its rut by an Internet plot hook. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

Themes of illusion, potency and

racism feed the thrust of a gripping,

and still frightening, contemporary

play" Michael Coveney, Daily Mail

The Donmar Warehouse, Eartham St.

Where You Can See It

London WC2 (0171-369-1732)

to 22 May

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ABC (0870-902 0413) & Belsize Park American History X 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Selia) 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 2pm, 4pm, 6pm Shakespeare in Love 8.15pm

AFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) & Harrow-on-the-Hill Aarzoo 15pm international Khiladi

1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) O Harrow-on-the-Hill American History X 1.10pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm Antz 11am Arlington Road 12.10pm, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9pm Blast from the Past 6pm A Bug's Life 11.50am, 1.15pm, 3.40pm Jack Frost 10.50am Madeline 10.50am ighty Joe 1.10pm. 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm Patch Adams 4pm, 9.40pm Payback 11.10am, 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 9.55am The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 8.50p Shakespeare in Love 12.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm, 11.40pm Waking Ned 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm You've Got M@II 1.10pm, 6.40pm, 12.10am

HOLLOWAY

ODEON (08705-050007) @ Archway Arlington Road 6.05pm. Opm Beloved 7.45pm Blast 12.05pm, 2pm, 4pm Madeline 12.05pm, 2pm, 4pm Madeline 12noon Mighty Joe 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Payback 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm The Rugrats Movle 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm Shakespeare in Love 6pm, 8.35pm The Thin Red Line 12.50pm, 4.20pm, 7.50pm Waking Ned 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm You've Got M@ii 12.20pm, 2.45pm

ILFORD
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3.55pm Mighty Joe 12.10pm,
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Adams 5.55pm, 8.25pm Payback
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2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Walking Ned 12 400pm, 3.20pm ing Ned 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.35pm

TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) & Kilburn Waking Ned 7pm, 9.15pm

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston A Bug's Life 1.05pm, 3.10pm, 5.15pm Payback 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 6pm Shakespeare in Love 8. The Thin Red Line 7.20pm 8.05pm

MUSWELL HILL The Thin Red Line 4.35pm, 7.50pm

PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye American History X 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm Arlington Road 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm Beloved 8.30pm Mighty Joe 2.30pm, 5pm Payback 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm The Rugrats Movle 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm Waking Ned 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm

PURLEY ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley Arlington Road 5.30pm, 8.10pm A Bug's Life 1.25pm, 3.25pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 8.15pm Mighty Joe 2.45pm, 5.45pm The Rugrats Movie 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm The Thin

ABC (0870-902 0401) & Putney Bridge/BR: Putney. A Bug's Life 1pm. 3.15pm, 5.25pm Payback 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm 3.30pm, 5.45pm **Sh** Love 8.15pm The Thin Red Line

RICHMOND ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond Madeline 12noon Mighty Joe 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Payback 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Waking

Ned 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007) BR/ Θ Richmond Arlington Road 6.40pm, 9.15pm A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm. 7.10pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm The Thin Red Line 1.10pm. 40pm, 8.10pm You've Got M@ll

ROMFORD ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford. Arlington Road 8.20pm A Bug's Life 1.30pm Patch Adams 1.40pm Payback 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 2.10pm, 3.50pm, 5.30pm The Thin Red Line 4.05pm.

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705-050007) BR: Romford Arlington Road 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.05pm Madellne 12.45pm Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm A Night at the Roxbury 12.45pm Patch Adams 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Payback 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm, 7.25pm, 8.40pm, 8.40pm, 8.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm, 8.30pm, 8.40pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm, 8.40pm, 8.40pm, 8.415pm, 8. 8.15pm Waking Ned 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm You've Got M@II 5.20pm, 8.35pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Crickm. 4.15pm Madeline 11.50an 2pm, 4.15pm madeline 11.30am Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Payback 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm The Rugrats Movie 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.45pm. 6pm. 8.15pm Shakespeare In Love 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Waking Ned 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm

STRATFORD IEW PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 Road 8.55pm A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.15pm Gods and Monsters 8.35pm Jack Frost 12.10pm Mighty Joe 11.55am. 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm Payback 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm The Rugrats Movie 11.30am, 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5pm, 6.50pm Waking Ned 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 9pm

ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill Arlington Road 2.35pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm Patch Adams 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm Shakespeare in Love 2.25pm. 5.35pm, 8.25pm

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SURREY QUAYS

UCI (0990-888990) — Surrey Cuays American History X 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.45pm Arfington Road 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm A Bug's Life 11.30am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm Madeline 11.15am, 1.15pm Mighty Joe 12.15pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Parch Adams 7.10pm, 9.40pm Pay-back, 11am, 1.30om, 4.10pm back 11am, 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm The Rugrats Movie 10.45am, 11.45am, 12,45pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5.15pm, 6.20pm, 7.20pm, 8.20pm Shake-speare in Love 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 9.20pm Waking Ned 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton Arlington Road 6.45pm, 9.45pm A Bug's Life 10.45am, 1pm, 3.30pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 9pm Madeline 1.15pm Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm Payback 11am, 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Regrats Movie 11.30am, 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 6.30pm, 9.15pm Waking Ned 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.45pm

UXBRIDGE ODEON (08705-050007) & Uxbridge Arlington Road 6.10pm, 8.45pm A Bug's Life 11.50am, 2pm, 4.05pm Mighty Joe 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm Patch Adams 8.50pm The Prince of Egypt 11.10am

WALTHAMSTOW tow Central A Bug's Life 1.25pm 3.30pm Payback 2.30pm, 5.20pm 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.30pm Shake-speare in Love 5.40pm, 8.10pm The Thin Red Line 7.20pm

THE SCREEN (01932-252825) BR: Walton-on-Tharnes Life is Bear tiful (La Vita è Bella) 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 2.40pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm Waking Ned 3pm, 5pm.

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham A Bug's Life 2pm Pay-back 4.15pm. 6.30pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 5.25pm, 7.10pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O
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Frost 12noon Mighty De 11.35am,
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WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) & South Woodford Arlington Road 8.10pm A Bug's Life 1.40pm Payback 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm Shakespeare in Love 2.40pm, 5.25pm The Thin Red Line 7.25pm

NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) → Turnpike Lane Daag 5.30pm Laa Waris 8.45pm Aa Ab Laut Chalen 2pm

WOOLINICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Wwich Arsenal A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 5.30pm Madeline 3.30pm Mighty 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm 8.30om The Thin Red Line 7.30om

CINEMA REPERTORY

CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place, SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) L'Amour en Fuite (NC) 6.30pm Domicile Conjugal (NC) 8.45pm ICA CINEMA The Mail, SW1 (0171-930 3647) The Promise (NC) 5pm. 7pm, 9pm Modulations (NC) 6.30pm, 8.45pm

THE LUX CINEMA Hoxton Square. N1 (0171-684 0201) Rio at Lux: Time of the Gypsies (15) 6.30pm + Gadjo Dilo 9pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232) Sn Eves (15) 2.30pm Addendum (NC) 15pm The Bitter Tea of G al Yen: Anything Goes (NC) 6.30pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road, N2 (0181-444 6789) A Bug's Life (U) 11.10am An Autumn Tale Conte d'Automne) (U) 1.10pm 5.20pm, 8.50pm La Vita è Bella (PG) 3.40pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) U-Turn (18) 1.30pm The Full Monty (15) 4.20pm Fear and Loathing in Las as (18) 6.30pm My Name is Joe

THE PULLMAN EVERYMAN Holly Bush Vale. NW3 (0171-606 2345) An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) (U) 3.50pm, 6.20pm,

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp Road, W6 (0171-420 0100) Krzysztof Kieslowski: I'm So-So (NC) 7.15pm + The Double Life of

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middx (0181-568 1176) The Apple (Sib) (PG) 5pm Waking Ned (PG) 7pm Central Sta-tion (Central do Brasil) (15) 9pm

DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) Festen (15) 1.15pm, 5.30pm Nia-gara Niagara (15) 3.30pm The Right Stuff (15) 7.30pm

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Elizabeth (15) 12noon, 7.10pm American History X (18) 2.30pm, 9.30pm Darling (NC) 5p

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) La Vita è Bella (PG) 2.30pm, 8pm Via Satellite (NC)

PSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Madeline (U) 2.30pm Hilary and Jackle (15) 6pm, 8.30pm Elizabeth (15) 7.30pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) A Bug's Life (U) 2 30pm Shake-Bare in Love (15) 5.30pm, 8.15pm

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals, — Seats at all prices) — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matiness — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

• AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-494 5372) BR/O Waterloo Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

O ANIMAL CRACKERS Stage version of the Marx Brothers classic. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £9.50-£30.

 ART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb. edy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ⊕ Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7][1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50.90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Fam-

ily musical based on Disney's cartoon fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) & Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][2.30pm, £18.50-E35. 150 mins. **BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus**sell's long-running musical me ma. Phoenix Charling Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) & Leic Sq/Tott

Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7,45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, E11.50-£32.50, 165 mins. ⊕ BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ⊕ Covent Garden/Charing X Tiue-Thurshop Spm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat Spm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£30, half price Fri mats. 160 mins.

B CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Ellot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) & Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. den/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £10.50-£35. 165 mins.

B CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Pe-PCHICASO Maria Friedman and re-ber Davison star in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (Inc booking fee). 130 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF (ARRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criberton Piccadilly Circus, Wi (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm. [5] 3pm. [7] 5pm. [1] 4pm, £10-£25. 120 mins.

D COPENHAGEN New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £10-£30. 145 mins.

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN

Mark Little stars in this comedy

about the sexes. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri-Sat 6pm & 8.45pm, £5-£25, concs available. DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofiek talks to the animals. London Apol-lo Hammersmith Queen Caroline

[7] 2.30pm, ends 28 Aug, £12,50-£32,50, 150 mins. • THE GIN GAME Frith Banbury directs Joss Ackland and Dorothy Tutin in this drama which centres around a lengthy game of Gin Rummy, Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) BR/& Charing X/Embankment, Tonight 7pm, ends 5 Jun, £9.50-E27.50,

O GOOD Charles Dance in CP Taylor's humorous drama. Donma Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ◆ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 22 May, £14-£22, concs available.

of the hit fam. With Darren Day Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) — Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mlns.

• GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE Michael Pennington and William Hoyland in Moises Kaufman's restruction of the downfall of the ce ebrated playwright. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, E7.50-£29.50.

) AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm, £12-£29.50, 110 mins.

◆ MACBETH Starring Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter. Queen's Shaftes-bury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040/cc 344 4444) ◆ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 5 Jun, £10.50-£28.50. 140 mins.

• MAMMA MIA! New musical about a mother's reflections on her daughter's impending wedding day. Prince Edward Old Compton Street. W1 (0171-447 5400) • Leic Sq/fort Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] and £15.635 3pm. £15-£35.

THE MEMORY OF WATER ALe THE MEMORY OF WATER Al-ison Steadman and Stella Gonet star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's fineral. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/O Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7] 3pm, 58-£27.50. 120 mins.

) LES MISÉRABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's maserpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue. N1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

Now Booking

live and dangerous.

FOLLOWING HIS sterling fund-raising

efforts for Comic Relief, Lenny Henry

(below) is going on tour. Book now for a

chance to see the feisty Brummie stand-up,

Tour Information (0891–455 480) 29 Apr to 6 Jun

) MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madom Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-Sat 7.45pm. [4][7] 3pm, £8.50-£35.

• THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodumit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ⊕ Leic 5q. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £10-£24.50. 135 mlns.

 OKLAHOMA! Maureen Limman stars in Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical Lyceum Wellington Street, WCZ (0870-606 3446) & Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.30p [4][7] 2.30pm, ends 26 June.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/ct 344 4444) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, 14171 3 nm 510-535 150 priors [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35. 150 mins.

• THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason star in Neil Simon's comedy. Theatre Royal, Haymarks Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) • Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50.

• RENT New York-set musical inspired by La Boheme. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins. ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

OCOTESIOE-Guiding Star Jonathan Harvey's new play gives a tender account of the life of Hillsborough disaster survivor. In rep, bonight 7.30pm, ends 5 Apr. 150 mins. OLYTTEITON: The Forest Ostrovsky's social satire stars Frances de la Tour. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 1 May. Cottesloe: £12-£18. Lyttelton: £8-£27. Day seats from 10am, South Bank, SE1

(0171-452 3000) BR/O Waterloo. DOWN CHANDEDGADE COMPANY O THE BARBICAN: The Lion, The Winch and The Wardrobe Adrian Nohle directs the CS Lewis Namia clas sics for children. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 8 May.

● THE PIT Roberto Zucco Drama inspired by a wanted poster written by Koltes. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 1 May. Barbican Theatre: £5-£26. The Pic £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2. (0171-638 8891) BR/ Barbican.

D SACRED HEART Two friends struggle to come to terms with their pasts. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7pm, ends 24 Apr, £10, concs £5.

▶ SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1978s musical featuring songs by the Bee Gees, London Palladium Argyll Street, WI (0171-494 5020) ⊕ Ox-ford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mlns.

SHOCKHEADED PETER Junk opera, featuring the Tiger Lillies. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 0 (0181-741 2311) ← Hammersmith. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 10 Apr. £5-£18. ■ SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW Slava

Polounine returns to London. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, • STARLIGHT EXPRESS Hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070)

BR/O Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins. ◆ TRUST Gary Mitchell's explosive drama. Royal Court Upstalrs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ◆ Lek Sq. Tonight

9pm, ends 3 Apr. £10. concs £5.

THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of (0171-565 5000) ↔ Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins.

) WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987) ◆ Le-[5][7] 3pm, £18.50-£35. 160 mins. •) WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

Lloyd Webber's new musical. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 836 2428) & Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50. 120 mins. O THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan

Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) & Covent Garder/Holborn, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

THEATRE **BEYOND THE WEST END**

tree's When Pigs Fly Gay musical comedy poking fun at American culture. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 6pm & 8.30pm, Sun 6pm, ends 3 Apr, £20-£25 concs £15. Great Newport Street. WC2 (0171-836 3334/cc 741

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE A Small Drop of Ink: Snake New work set on and around the Finchley Road. 31 Mar & 1 Apr, 7pm & 9pm, £9-£12, concs available. Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) ⊕ Swiss Cottage. KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Gob

Jason Orange stars in this blistering attack on art and culture. Tue-Sun Bpm, mats Sat & Sun 3.30pm, ends 18 Apr. £12-£14, cones £9. Up-per Street, N1 (0171-226 1916)

*THE INFORMATION ON 'Good' at the Donmar Warehouse

who couples his job in Auschwifz with

his friendship with Maurice, a Jewish

psychoanalyst played by Iau Gelder.

(right) is the nubile student with whom

Starlet of the moment Emilia Fox

he has an affair, while his long.

suffering wife (played by Jessica.

Turner) falls apart at the seams.

What They Say About It

production" Robert Butler,

A strong cast in a dark, crisp and spare

Independent on Sunday. "It bubbles

with restless energy, brims with wry,

A sincere attempt to

Sunday Telegraph.

Benedict Nightingale, Times.

grapple with some of the

our time" John Gross.

darkest moral enigmas of

- but pointed observation" =

What is it? CP Taylor's play with music chronides a German professor's gradual absorption by Nazisin. The deceptively humorous drama focuses on his naive blindness to the implications of his actions despite their eventual contribution to the horrific genocide.

Who's In It? Charles Dance (right), famed for The Jewel in the Crown but more recently seen in ITV's Rebecca and the controversial Hilary and Jackie, plays Halder, the literature professor unwittingly surfing the waves of -

Nazi propaganda -LYRIC STUDIO 400 lokes with the Devil Tragi-comedy about one man's failed attempt to make an epic film about Mexico, Mon-Sat 80

Sat 4pm, ends 17 Apr. E9, concs E5, Mon - all seats £5. King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith. PRIVERSIDE STUDIOS Blood Kno Athoi Fugard's lucid drama exa ies in spartheid and racism Tue-Sun 7.45pm, ends 25 Apr. £10, concs £6. Crisp Road, W6 (0181-237 1111) O Hammersmith

TRICYCLE THEATRE Up Aga TRECYCLE THE PAIR NEW DISCR THE Wall New black musical complete with huge afros. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Sat 4.15pm, ends 17 Apr. £8-£13.50. Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000)

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

BARNSTAPLE QUEEN'S THEATRE Bing-Bong Keith Waterhouse's comedy about a pair of television sitcom scriptwrit ers. Starring Dennis Waterman and Patrick Mower. Mon. Tue. Thur-Sat. 7.45pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £11-£14.50. Boutport Street (01271-324242)

THEATRE ROYAL .The Dispute Marivaux's quasi-scientific drama directed by Neil Bartlett. Tue-Sat , mat Thur 4pm, ends 3 Apr. £7.50-£14.50, concs available, Bond

THEATRE ROYAL The Price Com ling drama about two estranged brothers, each of whom carries : Thur-Sat 8pm, mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 10 Apr. £3-£19, concs available. King Street (0117-987 7877)

ORCHARD THEATRE On the Pisto John Godber's raunchy comedy gives us a revealing insight into skiing holidays. Contains mulity. Tonight 7.45pm. £9-£11. OAPs £7.50-£9.50. Home Gardens (01322-220000)

HARLOW PLAYHOUSE Canterville Ghost Musical version of Oscar Wilde's satirical ghost story. Tonight 7.30pm. £7-£8. concs £6-£7. The High (01279-431945) WOLSEY THEATRE The Glass

nagerie Tennessee Williams' por rait of a faded Southern belle. Y

2.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £5-£14, conc able. Civic Drive (01473-253725) WATERMILL THEATRE Danger-ous Corner JB Priestley's thriller about a suspicious suicide. Mon-Sa

7.45pm, Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat

Bagnor (01635-46044) KEY THEATRE Loot Michael Elnhd Letitia Dean star in Joe Orton's black comedy. Mon-Thur 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, mats Thur 2.30pm, Sat 5pm, ends 3 Apr. £9-£11.50, concs available. Embank-

ment Road (01733-552439)

POOLE ARTS CENTRE Hushabve Mountain Jonathan Barvey's new play set in Heaven and on Earth. Tue-Sat 7.45pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £7.50-£11.50. Kingland Road (01202-£85222) (01202-685222)

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE A Midsummer Night's Dream Star-ring Josette Simon and Nicholas Jones. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 9 Oct. £5-£39. Waterside (01789-295623)

SWAN THEATRE Volpone Malcolm Storry plays the avaricious hero. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 9 Oct. £5-£36, Waterside (01789-295623)

PALACE THEATRE The Late Mid-

PALACE THEATRE THE LATE MIGHE CLASSES BLATOID Pinter directs Simon Gray's study of family conflict. Mon-Thur 7.45pm, Pri & Sat 8pm, mar today 2.30pm, ends 10 Apr. £4-£15.75, concs available. Clarendon Road (01923-225671) BOX OFFICE

Last Chance to Book

(0181-463 0100) 8 Apr

IAN DURY (below) AND THE BLOCKHEADS

will be performing a one-off gig in April, and

despite worries about Dury's health, the

band is said to be working on a new album.

Blackheath Concert Halls, London SE3

EXHIBITIONS CLASSICAL

AMERICAN MUSEUM IN BRITAIN Beautiful Beasts: Animais in Amer-ican Art Nineteenth-century scripture, textiles, prints and ceramics. Tue-Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 11 Nox 25, concs £4.50, child £3 (incl to mu-seum & grounds), exhibition & grounds only £2.50, child £2. Claver-

ton Manor (01225-460503) FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM Rembrandt and the Passion The museum's outstanding collection of prints. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 20 Jun, free

HAYWARD GALLERY Patrick Cauffield More than 50 colourful paintings by the leading British paintings by the leading British artist. Mon, Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Tue & Wed 10am-8pm, ends 11 Apr. £6, concs £4. family £12.

Belvedere Road SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo. **NATIONAL GALLERY Portraits by** Ingres Major exhibition of paintings and drawings by the 19th-century French artist. Mon. Ive; Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-10pm, ends 25 Apr. £6, concs £4, Wed £4 7pm-

10pm. Trafalgar Square WC2 (0171-747 2885) & Leicester Square. ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Monet in the 20th Century Eighty paintings made after 1900. Mon-Thur, Sun 9am-6pm, Fri & Sat 9am-10pm, ends 18 Apr. £9, concs £6. child (12-18) £3, child (8-11) £1.50. Burlington House, Piccadilly Wi (0171-300 8000) & Green Park.

TATE GALLERY Jackson Pollock Abstract Expressionist work. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 6 Jun. 5m (Vam-3.50pm, ends 6 Jul. 27.50, concs £5, family £19 (Hrst-call 0870-842 2233 + £1.60 bkg fee). Millbank SW1 (0171-887 8000) ◆ Pimlico.

NORWICH NORWICH ARTS CENTRE India 50 Working People: Sebastiao
 Salgado Internationally acclaimed photographer portrays of Indian life.
 Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-4pm, ends 8 Apr, free. Reeves Yard.
 St Benedict's St (01603-660352)

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART Some where Else: Wille Doherty New video installation. Tue-Sun 11am-6pm (Thur to 9pm), ends 4 Apr. £2.50 (free Wed am & Thur pm), concs £1.50, child free. Pembroke Street (01865-722733)

ST IVES TATE GALLERY Quolt Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm. Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, cones £2. (01736-796226)

EVENTS

SOUNDS OF THE FOREST II Gala concert in ald of the British Heart Foundation. Wilde Theatre South Hill Park (01344-484123) Tonight 7.30pm. £7, concs £5.

I FATHERHEAD MAMMAL MONTH - OTTERS AND WATER VOLES Illustrated talks and activities. Nower Wood Edu-cational Nature Reserve Mill Way (01372-379509). Tonight 7.30pm-9mm £3 chlid £2 50

MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS Internadra Palace Park Wood Green N22 (0421-565557/8/9) BR: Alexa Palace. Mon-Fri 5pm & 8pm, Sat, Sun, Bank Holldays, 2pm & 5pm, ends 11 Apr. £8-£20, child £6-£15.

Strippers of both sexes compete, raising funds for the Leydig Trust. The Improv Tott Ct Rd W1 (0171-387 2414) ⊕ Warren St. Tonight 7pm-12midnight. £10, concs £6. PULBOROUGH POND DIPPING Discover what's un-der the surface of the water, children Wiggonholt (01798-875851)

Today 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, £4, child £1.50, mems free.

EROTIC OSCARS - SEMI-FINALS

LITERATURE

HEPWORTH AND NICHOLSON
Jonathan Blackwood examines the artistic comole. Tate Gallery Milibank SW1 (0171-887 8765) @ Pimlico.

THE (INFAMOUS) ANNUAL CRICK CRACK GRAND LYING CONTEST... Storviellers from all over the country compete. The New Crick Crack Club, The Spitz Venue Spitalfields Tonight 8pm, £6, concs £4.50.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD MORTIMER'S MISCELLANY An evening of with Sir John Mortimer. Leisure Centre High Pavement (01623-457600) Tonight 7.30pm. £6.50. cones £5.50.

CORN EXCHANGE Ensemble Bash The percussion ensemble in concert. ght 7.15pm. £8. concs £6. ler Street (01223-357851)

ST DAVID'S HALL Mozart Festiva Orchestra and Chorus/Moulds Handers Messich performed by can-dlelight. Tonight 7.30pm. £12-£21. The Hayes (01222-878444)

> ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE Orchestra and Choir of the Age of Enlightenment/Leonhardt JS Bach's St. John Passion. Tonight 7.30pm. £8-£20. Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061) & West-

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL New London Consort/Pickett Music for Holy Week. Tonight 7.45pm. £8-£20. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960

4242) BR/O Waterloo. **ARTS CENTRE Bournemouth** Symphony Orchestra/Berglund Topett's Concerto for Double String Orchestra. Tonight 7.30pm. £6-£24. Kingiand Rd (01202-685222)

OPERA

LONDON LONDON COLISEUM Orpheus and Eurydice ENO revival of Gluck's pera. Tonight 8pm. £5-£55. St. Martin's Lane. WC2 (0171-632

8300) O Leicester Square. SADLER'S WELLS Hansel and Grebel Humperdinck's opera in a production by Welsh National Opera.
31 Mar & 1 Apr, 7.30pm. £7.50-£60.
Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-863
8000) & Angel.

DANCE

CHELTENHAM EVERYMAN THEATRE English National Ballet: Tour de Force Extracts from five ballets. Today 2pm & 7.45pm, £6.50-£18.50. Regent Street (01242-572573)

CHICHESTER Stomp Witty rhythmic symphony. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £10-£22.50, concs avallable. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA CLIFFS PAVILION St Petersburg Bailet Theatre: The Nutcracker Lavish production of Tchaikovsky's . Today 2.30pm & 7.45pm.

COMEDY

GUILDFORD FASCINATING AIDA: BAREFACED CHIC AT YVONNE ARNAUD THE-ATRE Infamous cabaret trio. Mon-Thur 7.45pm, ends 1 Apr, from £13.50. Millbrook (01483-440000)

HARRY HILL AT HEN AND CHICK-ENS The Channel Four star's su real humour 31 Mar & 1 Apr. 8.30pm. E5. St Paul's Road. N1 (0171-704 2001) ← Highbury & Islington I FNNY BEIGE AT THE REGENCY

ROOMS, NEW LONDON THEATRE Glizy Parker Street, WC (0171-419 THE COMEDY STORE Featuring Jim Sweeney, Richard Vranch, Josie Lawrence, Andy Smart, Lee Simpson and Nell Mullarkey. Tonight 8pm. £11, NUS £7. Oxendon Street

(0171-344 0234) ₱ Plcc Circus. RICHARD MORTON AND JUNIOR SIMPSON AT NORWICH ARTS CENTRE Genial musical funnyman and the star of The Real McCoy. Tonight 8.30pm. £8. St Benedict's

et (01603-660352)

SWINDON **BOB DOWNE - MILLION SELLERS** AT WYVERN THEATRE High camp and high kicks galore. Tonight 8pm £12. Theatre Sq (01793-524481)

CLUBS

BATH BOOGIE NIGHTS AT BABYLON With DJs Diggler and Funky Moth-er. Tonight 9pm-late. £4. Kingston Road (01225-400404)

CARDIFF Wednesdays at clwb ifor BACH Jazz, funk, breakbeat, indie and retro. Tonight 9pm-late, £2.50, £2 before 11pm. Womanby Street (01222-232199)

THE DOUBLE SIX CLUB AT THE OFFICE AT THE OFFICE Seventies domestic games and easy list events. Tonight 6pm-2am, E5. Rath-bone Place, W1 (0171-636 1598) O Tortenham Court Road.



BEATRICE HODGKIN

BASINGSTOKE ERROL BROWN Former-Hot Chocolate vocalist on his 'Still Sexy'
tour, The Anvil Churchill Way (01256-844244). Tonight 8pm

phone for prices. LEICESTER SUZI QUATRO, ALVIN STARDUST, THE RUBETTES Nostagic le-decker of 1970s favourites De Montfort Hall Granville Road (0116-233 3111). Tonight 7.30pm,

JACK JONES Mellow easy-listening superstar behind the definitive version of Bacharach's Wives & Lovers, Barbican Hall Barbicar Centre EC2 (0171-638 8891)

→ Moorgate/Barbican. Tonight 8pm. phone for prices. DAVID SOUL AND ANTONIO FARGAS Starsky and Hutch stars perform in a funkily bizarre live music experience. The Fridge Town Hall Parade, Brixton Hill SW2 (0171-326 5100) BR/O Brixton. Tonight

8pm. £12-£18, concs £10. BELLATRIX Icelandic avant-garde experimentalists go pop. The Garage Highbury Corner N5(0171-607 1818/cc 0171-344 0044) BR/ Highbury & Islington. Tonight 8pm. £6.

TUCK & PATTI Funky acoustic jazz dno. Jazz Café Parkway NW1 (0171-916 6060) & Camden Town. Tonight 8.30pm, £18, adv £15. BACKYARD BABIES, FAMOUS MONSTERS, FUNGUS Scandinavian

glam-metal from the flambovant

adliners. LA2 Charing Cross Roa WC2 (0171-434 0403) O Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 8pm, £8. JOHN OTWAY, ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER Cult pub-rocke joined by the veteran ranting poet. The Weavers Arms Newington Green Road N1 4 (0171-226 6911)

BR/O Highbury & Islington, Tonight 8.30pm. E5. MEAT LOAF Mr Loaf performs classic tracks from a new Greatest Hits album. Wembley Arena Empire Way, Wembley Middx (0181-902 0902) ⊕ Wembley Park. Tonight 8pm, £23.50-£27.50.

BIS Indie-kids grown bitter and disillusioned tour the new album, Social Dancing. Wedgewood Rooms Albert Road, Southsea (01705-863911) Tonight 8pm, £6.

DRUGSTORE, THE PARADISE MOTEL, LAPLAND Isabel Monteiro's indie trio headline. 1116) Tonight 8pm, £6

DENNIS LOCORRIERE The smooth Dr Hook singer runs through the 1970s favourites, Huntingdon Hall Crowngate (01905-611427) Tonight 8pm, £12, concs £10. MUSIC

WORCESTER

HUW WARREN BAND Jazz-folk suite entitled A Barrel Organ Far From Home. Arnolfini Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191). Tonight 8pm. £8, concs £6.

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

THE SCOTTISH CONNECTION Showcasing vocalists Fiona
Duncan, Freddie King and Cathie
Rae. 606 Club Lors Road SW10
(0171-352 5953) & Fulham Broadway/Earl's Court. Tonight 9.30pm £4.95.

QUINTET Guitar and sax-led

NELSON RANGELL Punchy bop saxist known for his US smooth jazz output. Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722) ⊕ Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat

ANNIE ROSS Vocalist and actress in sultry cabaret mode. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) & Hyde Park Comer. Mon-Sat 9.15pm & 11.15pm, ends 10 Apr. STEVE SWALLOW Pioneering

Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747) O Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 9pm & 11.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £15, INVINCIBLES Trumpeter Damon Brown in funky mood. Sound Republic Restaurant & Bar Wardow

Republic Restaurant & Bar Wardour Street W1 (0171-413 1423)

1960s bass guitarist. Ronnle Scott's

O Leicester Square/Piccadiily Circus.

Tonight 8,30pm, free. WORCESTER PARK DAVE MARRION BIG BAND Sixteen-piece swing and modern jazz ensemble. Cagney's Maldon Road (0181-337 1015) Tonight 8pm. £5.

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6.00 On Air.

oncert (R)

5.00 in Tune.

(88-90.2MHz FM)

(975-998MHz FM)

Dave Pearce, 8.00 Steve

6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.

12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed

7.00 South by Southwest, 9.00

Giants of Soul. 10.00 Top of the

Alfinson, 12,00 Katrina Leskanich,

Pops 2 on 2. 10.30 Richard

3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

10.30 Artist of the Week.

11.00 Sound Stories. **12.00** Composer of the Week:

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime

2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

7.30 Performance on 3. Live from

the Royal Festival Hall, London.

Hakan Hardenberger (trumpet),

BBC Singers, BBC Symphony

Chorus and Orchestra/Andrew

Scenes (BBC commission: first

performance). Britten: Four Sea.

Birtwistle: Endless Parade, See

Pick of the Day. 8.20 The British Renaissance.

AFter a period of stagnation,

British music has been in the

Paul Griffiths surveys the

impressive achievements of

and considers how it is that,

ascendant for the last fifty years.

British composers in this period

And technique, they have

managed to retain something

See Pick of the Day.

peculiarly British in their music.

8.40 Concert, part 2. Tippett:

6.00 Jingle Al the Way (1996) (70801). 8.00 The Wedding (1997) (31238). 10.00 Family Plan (1997) (14881580). 11.50 The

Fifth Element (1997) (60713798), 2.00 The Wedding (1997) (24899), 4.00 Jingle All the

Way (1996) (29054), 5.30 Family Plan (1997) (45851), 7.30 Merchant Ivory (7561), 8.00

The Fifth Element (1997) (19780). 10.00 LA

ad Again (1991) (888401). **4.00 - 6.0**0 Great White Hype (1996) (73517).

(1973) (13832), 11.00 The Rockford Files - i Stil Love L.A. (1995) (88948). 1.00 Novie

(5025528), 2.45 Action Heroes (7160219).

Confidential (1997) (27305141), 12.25 Pho-

tographing Fairles (1997) (708739), 2.10

9.00 Battle for the Planet of the Apes

Magic (73702). 1.30 Femmes Fatal

The Vision of St Augustine.

Davis, Causton: Willennium

Interludes (Peter Grimes).

4.00 Choral Evensong

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)

9.00 Masterworks

Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker.

WEDNESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Kevin Greening, 12.00 Jo Whiley, 2.00 Mark Radoliffa, 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S (right) mental state while writing Lamacq - the Evening Session. Jone Eyre is contextualised and Q.00 Movie Update with Mark imaginatively reconstructed in rmode. 10:10 John Peel, 12.00 the Afternoon Play (2.15pm R4). Callies Peterson. 2.00 Clive War-The last and largest event in ren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills. Radio 3's Sounding the Century festival, "Endless Parade", a celebration of British music since

of a BBC symphony orchestra

concert at the Royal Festival Hall

subway and underground sys-

spired writers and artists. She

11.30 Jazz Notes.

(924-946MHz FM)

9.45 Serial: Pliate.

12.57 Weather.

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Midweek.

Schubert (R)

RADIO 4

talks to novelist and biographer

12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS; Southall Stories.

1L30 Our Man at Wembley. (R)

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

in Performance on 3 (7.30om R3). An impressive sample has been drawn from Birtwistle. Britten, Tippett and Richard Causton. Midway through, in The British Renaissance (8.20pm R3). Paul Griffiths offers an opinion as to why there is an abundance of compositional talent the war, begins with the live relay and sounds a warning note that the upsurge is faltering. DOMINIC CAVENDISH

9.40 Postscript. Twenty-five 1.00 The World at One. years after W H Auden's death, 1.30 Inspiration!. poets and critics reassess his po-2.00 NEWS; The Archers. etry and make a personal selec-tion of readings (3/5). (R) 10.00 Ensemble. In the final pro-2.15 Afternoon Play: Making Soace. See Pick of the Day. 3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Quesgramme of the series, Penny Gore tion Time. introduces a selection of perfor-mances by artists featured in re-cent programmes. Brahms: 3.30 Rigby's Red Herrings. (R) 3.45 This Sceptred Isle. (R) 4.00 NEWS; Four Walls. Intermezzos in B minor, Op 119 No 4.30 The Larger Map. 1; In C, Op 119 No 3. Alexander 5.00 PM. Taylor (piano). Baermann, attrib 5.57 Weather. Wagner: Adagio for clarinet and strings. Gaudier Ensemble. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 King Street Junior. (R) Janacek: String Quartet No 2 (Inti-7.00 NEWS; The Archers. mate Letters). Endellion Quartet. 735 Front Row, Mark Lawson

Khachaturian, arr Heifetz: Sabre with arts reviews, news and inter-Dance. Nicola Loud (violin), Sam Haywood (piano). 10.45 Night Waves. Laura Cum-7.45 High Days, Holy Days. A selection of readings for Easter. 3: ming explores the way the metro. Easter Eggs. From the paschal egg to the Faberge egg, from pace-egg rolling in Newcastle to terns of the world's cities have inthe lawns of The White House. As related by Katherine Mansfield, Peter Ackroyd, whose new book James Joyce and Pope Pius V The Plato Papers' focuses on the among others. Read by Charlotte trial of Plato the orator in AD 3700. Comwell, Denys Hawthome,

Kathryn Hunt, Leo McKern and Leslie Philips. 8.00 NEWS; The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk and regulars Janet Daley, David Starkey, lan Harg-reaves and David Cook investigate the moral questions behind the week's news. 8.45 Lent Talks. 'The Dove De-

scending'. Writers from a variety of religious perspectives offer their views on the Easter story. In the last of the series, novelist Rhidian Brook relates how a sun-

SATELLITE AND CABLE

drenched, drug-hazed trip to Trinidad caused him to question accounts of the Resurrection. 9.00 NEWS; Under Pressure. Pop star turned particle physicist Brian Cox struggles to finish his experiments before a big conference. Are his bits of atoms real or just a figment of his imagination? 9.30 Midweek Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversa-10.00 The World Tonight. With

Justin Webb. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: My Mother's House Janet Suzman reads Colette's memoir (3/5). The young Colette is caught up in her family's traditions and ceremonies concerning marriage and child-

birth. (R) 11.00 NEWS: Old Harry's Game. Andy Hamilton's award-winning six-part comedy series, set in hell. 2: 'Another Country'. The Professor is convinced that societies evolve and mature. Then Satan introduces him to Bill Clinton. With James Grout, Jimmy Mulville and Robert Duncan. 11.30 im Glad You Asked Me

12.00 News. 12-30 The Late Book: Age of 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping. 11.30 -12.00 Today in Parliament. RADIO 5 LIVE

(693, 909kHz MW) 5.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Brian Hayes 12.00 The Midday News. 100 lan Payne. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra.

RADIO 4 LW

710 John inverdale's Football 10.00 Littlejohn. 11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion.

1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Moming Reports. **CLASSIC FM**

(100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly, 12-00 Requests, 2-00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths. VIRGIN RADIO

(1215, 1197-1280kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.30 Russ Williams, 9.30 Mark Forrest, 1.00 Nick Abbot, 4.00 Harriet Scott. 6.45 London Caling. 7.30 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 Gary Davies. 1.00 Richard Allen. 4.30 - 6.30 Phil Kennedy.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today, 1.30 One Planet. 1.55 My Century. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Meridian (Live). 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today. 4.20 Sports Roundup. 4.30 - 7.00 The World Today (4.30-700)

TALK RADIO 6.00 David Banks and Paul Ross. 9.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally James. 12.00 Let's Talk Pets. 1.00 Anna Raeburn, 4.00 Sport-Zone. 7.00 Seb Coe. 8.00 Big Issues with Simon Heffer, 10.00 James Whale. 12-00 - 6.00 David Banks and Paul Ross.

(9468870), 8,25 Babaloos (1864509), 8,30

Tiny Tales (9632290), 8-35 Tiny (4579528).

8.50 Parenting (8006257). 9.00 Special Be bies (8783696). 9.30 Roseanne (7653580).

10.00 Jerry Springer (9991344). 10.50 Mau-ry Povich (3390122). 11.40 Brookside

(21092'41), 12.40 Rescue 911. (46359734), 1.40 Beyond Bellef (39388580), 1.40 Maury

(9750509), 3.00 Jerry Springer (6862967), 3.50 Michael Cole (4152763), 4.40 Through

(23/5/344). 12:10 Through the Keyhole

Povich (4597615), 2,30 Special Bables

the Keyhole (59574219), 5.80 Heat is On

(15266851), **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook

(9644851), 645 Jerry Springer (1905257). 7.05 Rescue 911 (456783), 7.35 Animal

Rescue (4434870), 8.00 LA Lew (2998431)

9.00 Films: Everything to Gain (2968290). 11.00 Sex Files (7934238). 12.00 Close.

9.00 Abbott and Costello in Hollywood

(71400352). 3.00 Shaft (1971) (84957197).

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL

7.00 Jenny (4764), 7.30 Grace under Fire

(9219). 9.00 Dead Donkey (30986). 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? (45967). 10.00 Frasier (95106). 10.30 Cheers (17696). 11.00

(87431). 12.00 Letterman (45791). 1.00 Gar-

2.00 Dr Katz (53352), 2.30 Tibs and Fibs

Abbott & Costello (63739), 4.00 Close.

5.00 Within These Walls (6128764) **7.00** How's Your Father? (3306801). **7.30** The Odd Couple (4651798). **8.00** Families

(4715509). 8.30 Mind Your Language

(4798832). 9.30 Emmerdale (1192306).

10.00 Upstairs, Downstairs (2756162).

11.00 Gentle Touch (8356306), 12.00

merdale (196122), 1.00 Mind Your Lan-

guage (4756342). 1.30 Me and My Girl

(1195493). 2.00 Upstairs, Downstairs (7846238). 3.00 Love Boat (2915783). 4.00

Professionals (2394290), 5.00 Hart to Hart (445798), 6.00 Emmerdale (2436219), 6.30

Coronation Street (2450899), 7.00 Profes-

(9434696), 9.00 Sweeney (944832), 10.00

Hale and Pace (4719325). 10.30 Wineeltap-

pers' and Shurters (4729073). 11.00 Grans-da Men & Motors (2331144). 2.00 Close.

sionals (9425948). 8.00 Benny Hill

Coronation Street (4718696). 12,30 Em-

4707580. 9.00 Coronation Street

GRANADA PLUS

(49159). 3.00 Almost Perfect (40739). 3.30

ndling (20975). **1.30** Nurses (67994).

(4073). 8.00 Ellen (3412). 8.30 Spin City

Seinfeld (3543f), 11.30 Larry Sanders

88315509A 145 Westworld (1973)

(1945) (33333054). **11.00** White Heat (1949)

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

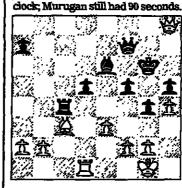
CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

MANY CONGRATULATIONS to Murigan Thiruchelvam, from New Malden in Surrey, who, at the age of 10 years and three months has become the youngest player ever to defeat a grandmaster.

His splendid feat, which cut nine days off the record previously held by the American Hikaru Nakamura, came on Sunday in the third game of a specially arranged rapidplay match with the grandmaster Jonathan Levitt.

Ironically, Levitt, who came fifth in the British Open rapidplay championships last year and won the best game prize there, had been dominating the third game - whereas he had just escaped from the ropes after Murugan conducted the second splendidly. But an attack of overconfidence allowed the young titan to trap his queen. And though Murugan became very nervous and Levitt squirmed so well that he at one point missed a draw, the grandmaster finally resigned in a dead lost position with one second left on his



Jonathan Levitt vs Murugan Thiruchelvam (3rd game)

32 Be5?? Rc8! 33 Qxc8 Bxc8 34 Rc1 Bb7 35 Rc7 Qe6 36 Bd4 Ba6 37 Rxa7 Qc6 38 Kh2 Qc4 39 Rg7+ Kh6 40 Rf7 Qd3 41 a4 Bc4 42 Rf6+ Kh7 43 Kg3 Qe4 44 f3 Qc2 45 fxg4 hxg4 46 Kf4 Qe4+ 47 Kg5 g3! 48 Rf7+ Kg8 49 Rg7+ Kf8 50 Kf6 Qxh4+ 51 Ke6 Qh6+ 52 Kxf5 Bd3+ 53 Kg4 Qh2 54 Ra7 Be2+ 55 Kg5 Qh5+ 56 Kf6 Qh6+ 57 Ke5 Qg5+ 58 Kd6 Bf1?? 59 Ra8+ Kf7 60 Ra7+ Kg8 61 Rg7+?? Qxg7 62 Bxg7 Kxg7 83 Ke5 Bxg2 64 Kf4 Kf6 65 Kxg3 Bf1 66 Kf4 Ke6 67 b4 Kd6 68 a5 Bd3 69 Kf3 Ke5 70 Kf2 Ke4 71 Ke1 Kxe3 72 Kd1 Bb5 0-1

58 ...Bf1?? was a gross blunder - 58 ...Qd8+ 59 Rd7 Qb8+ 60 Kxd5 Bf1 would have been clean enough. For 61 Ra8+ Kf7 (not 61 ... Kh7 62 Rh8+ Kg6 63 Rg8+) 62 Ra7!+ is a

After a draw in game four, a tired Murugan was dispatched by Levitt in the final two games for a match score of 3.5-2.5 in favour of the

White: Jonathan Levitt Black: Murugan Thiruchelyam London 1999 (5th game)

Queen's Gambit Declined 16 Bd3 a5 2 c4 e6 17 g5 h5 3 Nc3 Nf6 18 g6 f6 19 Qe2 Bb4 4 Bg5 Be7 5 e3 0-0? 20 Ng5! fxg5 21 hxg5 Qxg5 6 Nf3 b6 7 Qc2 h6 22 Rog1 Qxg1+ 8 Bxf6 Bxf6 23 Rxg1 Ne6 9 e4 Bb7 24 Oxh5 Kf8 10 cxd5 exd5 25 f4 Ke7 11 e5 Re8 26 f5 Rh8 12 0-0-0 Bg5+ 27 Qg4 Nxd4 13 Kb1 Nd7 28 f6+ gxf6 14 h4 Be7 29 exf6+ 15 g4 Nf8 1-0

5 ...0-0 was inaccurate - he should play 5 ...h6 6 Bh4 and then 0-0. If 9 ... dxe4 10 Qxe4! At the end, the attack was overwhelming.

But this sharp reverse only underlines the impressiveness of Murugan's earlier play.

Game all; dealer North

BRIDGE ALAN HIRON

THIS WAS an old par contest hand with hidden beauties. Suppose that South plays in Four Spades - how do you rate his chances after West has led #7?

I would imagine that the bidding had started One Heart - One Spade: Two Diamonds - Two Spades. Making one final move, North tried Three Diamonds and, in view of the quality of his suit, South now jumped to Four Spades. The directed lead was indeed \$7 and after taking his two tricks in the suit. East led a third

South followed suit perforce and West's natural-looking play was to ruff ahead of dummy with +6. It does not help him for, although this is the third trick for the defence, declarer wins any red suit return in dummy and is able to draw all the remaining trumps with the aid of a simple finesse.

Aha! But West could have set a cunning trap! Suppose that on the third round of clubs he ruffs with ♠2! Dummy over-ruffs and South comes to hand with a red ace and a ruff in order to lead +A and +Q. No good, for East wins with his king and can lead a fourth round of clubs for West to score the setting trick with \(\phi 9.\)

No.3884 Wednesday 31 March

North **♥AQ973 ♦ A K 764 ♣**KJ West **49862 ♠**K7 ♥J62 **♥K 1084 ♦**Q953 ♦J 108 **472 +**AQ53 South **◆**AQJ1053 02 **+109864**

Very neat indeed, but South did not have to fall into this tempting trap. When West ruffs the third round of clubs with his \$2 declarer simply discards a low red card from the table. Then, as dummy still has . a spade left, the trump finesse can . be taken and the rest of the trumps drawn without further loss.

I was just about to observe that the whole hand had all the elegance of a constructed deal, when I remembered that it was a constructed deal.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BEC1 N BRELAND As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: As BBC1 LONDON & SE except:
6.30 Newsline 6.30 (615) 9.30 Trianic Made in Belfast (523344), 10.30 Jasper
Carrott - Back to the Front (289670).
10.40 Laughter in the House: the Story
of British Sincom (334239), 11.30 Fam
89 with Jonathan Ross (88509), 12.00
The Word on the Street (4025623).
12.15 Film; Mr Baseball (633826), 1.55
Joins BBC News 24 (54157772).

BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 12_30 Dotaman (9280214), 12_45 Tirean Seunta (Enchanted Lands) (21982783), 6.00 News (685), 6.30 Re-(2982783), 6.00 News (685), 9-30 reporting Scotland; Weather (675), 9-30 Cancer Stories (36896), 10-00 Sportscene - Match of the Day Scotland v Czech Republic (771054), 11-35 Laughth (132561), 12-25 Film: Mr Besebali (5362), 2:10 News 24 (65978081).

##C1 WALES
As ### LONDON & SE except:
\$.30 Wales Today (515). 10.50 The
State (\$15896). 11.30 Film 98 with
Jonathan Ross (\$8509). 12.00 The
Word on the Streat (#125823). 12.45
Weish Questions (\$7975). 12.45 Film: BBC: WALES

Mr Basebali (493420). **2.30** Joins BBC News 24 (2152505).

ANGLIA
As Carthon except: 12.20 Anglia
As Carthon except: 12.20 Anglia
News and Weather (7762290). 12.55
Shortland Street (9430035). 1.30 Home
and Away (35/43702). 1.55 The Jerry
Springer Show (1284126). 3.40 ITV
News Headlines (4275219). 3.15 Anglia
News and Weather (4267290). 5.30
Whippenade (290). 6.00 Anglia News
(431). 11.15 Anglia News and Weather
(579073). 11.25 Film: Comrades of
Summer (725431). 1.20 Film: Confidential (932791). 3.05 Tirsha (6759178).
4.36 Living a Bug's Life (1141064).
4.35 ITV Nightscreen (42628604).
5.00 Coronation Street (54401). ANGLIA

CENTRAL CENT NAL As Cariton except: 12.20 Central News and Westher (7762290), 12.55 Home and Away (401344), 2.50 Echo Point (56922986), 5.30 Shortland Street (290) 6.00 Central News at Six (431), 1.15 Central News and Weather (579073), 4.05 Jobinder (8795246). 5.20 Asian Eye (9921130).

HTY WALES As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (44036580), 12.45 HTV News and Weather (4524122). 12.55 Short-land Street (9430035). 1.30 Home and Away (35145702). 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (1284126). 3.40 TV News Headlines (4275219). 3.45 HTV News (4267290). 5.30 Up Beat (290). 8.00 HTV News (431). 11.15 HTV News and Weather (579073). 11.25 Film: Comrades of Summer (725431). 1.20 Film: Confidential (832791). 3.05 Timbs (6759178). (725431) 1-20 Fifth Connection (832791) 3.05 Trisha (6759178) 4.10 Living a Bug's Life (41141064) 4.35 ITV Nightscreen (42628604) 5.00 Coronation Street (54401)

HTV West As HTV Wales except: 5.30 Live MERIDIAN

As Carton except: 10.30 This Morning (44036580), 12.15 Morning (44036580), 12.15 Morning (4504030), 12.55 Shortland Street (9430035), 1.30 Horn and Away (35143702), 1.55 The Jerry and Away (3340702). 1.55 Ins Jerry Springer Show (1284126). 3.50 ITV News Headlines (4275219). 3.15 Maridi-an News and Weather (4267290). 5.00 Home and Away (4344). 5.26 Three Minutes (9717716). 5.30 Big Day Out (290). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (431). 11.15 Meridian News and Weather (579073). **11.25** Film: Comrades of Summer (725431). **1.20** Film: Confiden-tial (932791). **3.05** Trisha (8759178). 4.10 Living a Bug's Life (41141084) 4.35 ITV Nightscreen (42628804) 5.00 Freescreen (54401). WESTCOUNTRY

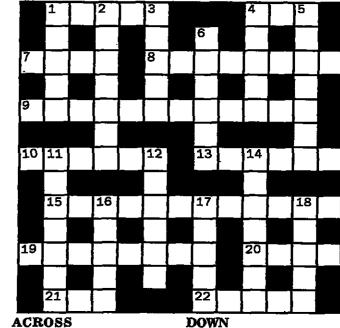
As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (44036580). 12.15 Westcountry News (4524122). 12.27 Illuminations (7787509). 12.55 Westcountry (7797509). 12.55 Westcountry Lunchtime Live (4011344). 3.10 ITV News Headlines (4275219). 3.15 Westcountry News (4267290). 5.30 Peter Gorton for Startars (280). 6.00 Westcountry Live (431). 11.15 Westcountry News (579073). 11.25 Firm: Confedential (822791). 3.05 Trishs (6759178). 4.10 Living a Bug's Life (414084). 4.35 ITV Nightscreen (42628604). 5.00 Coronation Street (54401).

YORKSHIRE As Cariton except: 12.55 Calendar News and Weather (4524122), 12.55 Home and Away (4011344), 2.30 Em-merciale (56922986), 5.30 Tonight (290, 6.00 Calendar (431), 11.55 Cal-endar News and Weather (579073), 4.15 befores (572473)

As Yorkshire except: 12:15 As Yorkshire except: 1245 North East News and Local (453870), 12.25 Jobink (7787509), 5.30 North East Tonight (26290), 11.15 North East News and Local

As Channel 4 except: 6.00 Sesame Street (88304832). 12.00 Bewitched (97595509). 12.30 Sesame Street (26313054). 1.00 Planed Plant (67367948). 1.30 Australia Wild (97882967). 2.05 Film: The Proud Valley* (79542219). 4.30 Ricki Lake (6769195), 5.00 Planed Plant (90683677). 5.30 Countdown (67615431). **6.00** Newyddion (93931764). **6.00** Heno (50350290). **6.35** Pobol y Cwm (31119122). **7.05** Pel-Droed: Y Swistir v Cymru (3855598), 9.15 Newyddion (38525698), 9.45 E R (18178784), 10.40 Brookside (48410702), 11.15 Sex and the City (38335773), 11.45 The 11 O'Clock Show (38834344), 12.15 Michael Moore - the Awful Truth Mannado, 3.45 Transperty Sport (14410994), **3.45** Transworld Sport (93991246), **4.40** Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



Foolish (5) Defraud (3) Joint (4)

Fuel hydrocarbon (8) Weak spot (8,4) Dissimulation (6)

13 Thin (6) Members of emergency service (12) Advancement (8)

Inlet (4) 21 Consume (3)

Emergency (6) Impose (7) Type of sweet (6) Indigestion remedy (7) Correct (5) 17 Gadget (5) 18 Watercourse (5)

wind (3,4)

Bumpkin (5) Social class (5)

Bewilder (7)

Relating to sound (5)

Shoreward flow with the

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Harm, 4 Wrest (Armrest), 9 Ossis, 10 Haimbow, 11 Test tube, 12 Icon, 13 Reception room, 17 Hood, 18 Addendum, 21 Gloose, 22 Flora, 23 Times, 2 Lib. DOWN: 2 Asses, 3 Missiep, 4 Word bilbidness, 5 Svi, 6 Tobseco, 7 Doctor, 8 Swan, 14 Croquet, 15 Needial, 16 Mammai, 17 High, 19 Droll, 20 Worm.

3.00 Something Borrowed, Something Blue (1997) (38412), **5.00** The Rockford Files - 1 Still Love L.A. (1995) (46509), **7.00**

SKY MOVIEMAX

Special Report: Journey to Mars (1996) (98239). 8.30 El News Week in Review (7073) 9.00 Sin and Redemption (1994 (17509). **11.00** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) (114580). **12.25** Bordello of Blood (1996) (2000604), 1.55 Until September (1984) (379468), 3.30 The Last Days of Frankie the Fly (1998) (749307), 5.05 -7.00 Something Borrowed, Something Blue (1967) (54110081). SKY CENEMA

4.00 From Hell to Texas (1958) (7563783). 6.00 Golden Earrings (1947) (2966832). 8.00 A Guide for the Married Man (1967) (2978677), 10.00 The Kremin Letter (1970) 2006870, 12.05 The Great White Hope (458130), 1.50 The French Connection # (1975) (6714401). 3.45 Hali, Hali, Rock n Roll (1987) (8089352). **5.40** Close.

TELMFOLIR 2.00 Widows' Peak (1994) (4598306). 8.00 Tible Sky (1994) (87600528). See Pick of the 2ey, 9.40 Disgraceful Conduct (5041764). 10.00 Biow-Up (1966) (4649561). 11.55 The Hollow Read (1995) (3655324). 1.40 Emple Men (1992) (8544739), 3.25 - 6.00 Varities (1990) (35406190).

(122) 230 Striptons (431) 3.00 Mortal Kombat: Conquest (1264) 9.00 X Files (2290) 10.00 Marri Lincovered (58657) 11.00 Friends (65899) 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (34696) 12.30 Law and Order (62913) 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (4921333). DISCOVERY CHANNEL 4.00 Fishing Adventures (1559899), 4.30 7.00 Centre (4222073), 735 Unlimited (360306), 835 You're on (7683162), 9.00 A River Somewhere (1548783), 5.00 Racing (12141). 9.30 Aerobics (56073). 10.00 Football (13344). 11.00 Fastrax Searching for Lost Worlds (8883734). 6.00 (12580), 11.30 Total (20509), 12.00 Aero-bics (45867), 12.30 Snooker (81899), 2.30 (3452035), 7.30 Futureworld (1549412). 630233). 230 Hutteronia (33822). 830 Arthur C Clarke (138801). 8-30 Crea-burs Fantastic (2483789). 8-39 New Kids on the Biog (539144). 9.00 Neo-Nazi Hunters (3469899). 9.30 Right on Red Fastrax (2238) 3.00 Football (24325) 4.00 Bouts (26572) 5.00 Pool (5483) 6.00 Centre (3967) 6.30 Unbelievable (4219)

PICK OF THE DAY

BLUE SKY (8pm FilmFour), Tony an ill-advised affair with another Richardson's (Tom Jones) last officer (Powers Booth). film, was not a box-office smash, performances. Jessica Lange nervous breakdown (cf Frances). She picked up an unexpected, yet well-merited Best Actress Oscar, as the wife of a military Lee Jones). When he is sent away on duty, she 'embarks on

H56290A 10.00 Casualties of Peace

(3835054), 10.30 From Russia with Love

3844702), 11.00 Broken Heart (3464344). 11.30 Corneback City (2802580), 12.00 History of Writing (6443994), 1.00 Searching for Lost Worlds (6255246), 2.00 Close.

7.00 Court Duckula (56035). 7.30 Grimmy

(68870), 8.00 Earthworm Jim (20561), 8.30

Godzilla (29832), 9.00 Pokemon (43412),

9.30 Simpsons (87344). 10.00 Shadow

Raiders (4615). 10.30 Xens (16122). 11.30 Legend of the Hidden City (71219). 12.00

an (77967). 1.00 Mad about You

(55306) 1.30 Jeopardy (60431) 2.00 Saly Jessy Raphael (42344) 3.00 Jenny Jones (75035) 4.00 Pokemon (4238) 4.30 Shad-

ow Palders (3122). **5.00** Star Treic Voyager

(3493), 6.00 America's Dumbest Criminals

3122), 7.30 Simosons (4851), 8.00 Mortal

(4615), 6.30 Friends (5967), 7.00 Simpso

SKY SPORTS 1

The qualification process for but it showcases two marvellous the European Championships in the Low Countries next year is (right) has always impressed really hotting up. A lot is riding as women on the verge of a on tonight's game, Scotland vs Czech Republic (7pm Sky Sports 1). The Scottish manager, Craig Brown, will be hoping that the rejuvenated Gary McAllister man (the equally good Tommy marshalls the team with his usual sense of authority.



(14073). **12.00** Centre (4522338). **12.15** You're on (7462265), 1.00 Football (82401). 2.30 Rugby (84371), 4.00 Centre (45/9246), 4.15 Close. SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics (6913031), 7.30 Centre (4728293). 7.45 Racing (8878528). 8.45 Fes-trax (5745696). 8.45 Centre (9747141). 9.00 Fish (5918073). 9.30 Fish (1603948). 10.00

1616412), 12.00 Footbell (8390344). 2.00 Golf (1615851), 5.00 Unlimited (5576035), 6.00 Watersports (1615783). 7.00 Golf (1954967), 10.00 Rugby (2886870), **11.30** Ringside (6965957), **1.00** Golf (3742623), **1.30** Westersports (4201517). 2.30 Centre (29392772), 2.45 Close. SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Sports (19015306), 1.00 Fish 344). **1.30** Fish (19029870), 2.00 Premiership (27651290), 2,30 Bouts (1917815), 3,30 Powerboat (14513528), 4,00 Football (275/214), 6.00 Motor Recing (14502412). 6.30 Golf (14593764), 7.00 Rugby (29487293), 8.30 Ringside (30184495). 10.00 Classics (19339493), 11.30 Close.

ELBOSPORT 7.30 Superbike (97948), 9.00 Curing (62122), 11.90 Motocross (14948), 11.30 Car on Ice (15677), 12.00 Offroad (31764). 1.00 Equestrianism (4042), 2.00 US PGA Golf Tour (86702), 3.00 Tennis (8509), 3.30

Your Engines (61764), 12.30 Close. UK GOLD 7.00 Crossroads (8105851), 7.20 Neighbours (6266219), 7.55 EastEnders (1434108). 8.30 The Bill (3832957), 9.00 The Bill (382329), 9.30 The House of Biott 539122), **10.30** Phoda (3845431), 1**1.00** Dellas (4676899), 11.55 Neichbours

3832). 12.25 EastEnders (2501986) 2.55 The Bit (1404561), 3.25 The Bit. (3557770). 3.55 EastEnders (3011035). 4.30 Phoda (1540141), 5.00 Al Creatures Great and Smell (8083752). 6.00 Dynasty (1186431). 7.00 Ever Decreasing Circles (7330238), 7.40 Last of the Summer Wina 4791561), 8.20 The Brittes Empire 39509), 9.000 One Foot in the Grave 16251221, 9.40 Catherine Cookson 8073), **11.20** The Bill (8752035), **11.5**5 The RE (1349035). 12.25 Between the Lines (2910420). 1.25 Some Mothers Do Ywe 'Em 1504333). 2.15 Man from Auntie (8669536). 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping (\$3928

6.00 Tiny (79091528), 6.20 10 plus 2 (48425561), 6.40 Greedysaurus (96094141). 6.45 Philipert (98093412), 6.50 Politz Dot Shorts (98081677). 7.00 Parenting (3860344). 7.05 Professor Bubble (1935035), 7.30 Cal-iou (6462899), 7.35 Bug Alert (7339431), 7.55 Parenting (9458493), 8.00 Barney

Terris (22306), 5.00 Olympic Magazine

(1054) 5.30 Start Your Engines (33528) 6.30 Strength (85493) 7.30 Roler Stering (13764) 9.30 Footbell (54493), 11.30 Start

1.00 Bugs (1173967). 2.00 Dallas (7492290).

ROBERT

TELEVISION REVIEW

to problems within a family by removing the man and breaking up the family.

It's certainly true that masculinity is somewhat out of fashlon: I have met a number of prospective parents worried by the very idea of having a boy. It's also the case, as Pizzey suggested, that

BBC

9.00 Business Breakfast (74580). 7.00 News (T) (36257).
9.00 Kiiroy (2035898). 9.45 Style Chellenge (7082324).
10.10 The Vanessa Show (S) (7924238). 10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (3577326). 11.00 Change That (S) (3587702). 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (T) (3557561). 11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (742899). 12.00 Call My Bluff (S) (8848). 12.30 Mipsout (S) (4018257). 12.55 The Veather Show (S) (53152267). 1.00 News; Weather (T) (39344). 1.30 Regional News; Weather (58074832). 1.40 Neighbours (S) (3514280). 2.05 Through the Keyhole (56805219).

2.35 Midweek Racing from Ascot. Clare Baiding introduces the 240, 3.10 and 3.40pm races (S) (2055580)

3.50 Children's BBC: ChuckleVision (S) (T) (4978677), 4.10 See It, Saw It (S) (T) (5918986), 4.35 The Wild House (S) (T) (3555035), 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (4210561), 5.10 Blue Peter (S) (T) (9914948),

5.35 Neighbours. Joel is fighting for his life, white Sally and Drew are ambivalent about the platonic status of their friendship (S) (T) (932783).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (885).

6.30 Regional News. And weather (T) (815).

7.00 Holiday on a Shoestring. Fishermen's cottages on Croatla's Korneti islands, self-catering in Barbados, and family holidays in Majorca (S) (T) (9412).

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Peter Snow reports on the discovery of a gene for stomach cancer, and Philippa Forrester chomps on the latest food for astronauts (S) (T) (889). es. Del attends a school est appearance by

8.50 National Lottery - Qreatest Hits. With Barbara Windsor and Mike Reid (8) (183696). News, Weather (T) (9493)

9.30 Jasper Carrott - i his rootzzz Brummie i sexual permissivenes Back to the Front. The back-to-te comedian does some routines on less and Peter Stringtellow (36696).

10.00 Elities Laughter in the House: the Story of British Sitcom. The second episode of this authoritative Omnibus history of the British sitcom considers "The Sensational Seventies". See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (771054).

10.50 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross. Jozza take to John Trevolta about his new film, A Chill Action, and reviews Robert Carlyle's historical romp. Plunkett and Macleane, and the re-release of Night of the Hunter (S) (T) (981528).

11.20 The Word on the Street. The Bishop of Liverpool talks to Mohamed Al Fayed – not about the boy Keegan, but about society's attitude to wealth (299325).

Seleck stars as a washed-up baseball ace who is trying to revive his carser in Japan in this culture-clash comedy that is better known for the controversy surrouncing its making. Universals new owners, Matsushita, claimed it was anti-Japanese (Than Weather) (S) (472122). To 1.20am.

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LAUGHTER IN THE HOUSE: THE STORY OF BRITISH SITCOM (10pm BBC1) "The 1070s were the golden age of the British sitcom" begins the second part of this Omnibus trilogy - immediately putting one on nostaliga alert. After clips from Ftwelty Towers (right), The Good Life, Butterflies, Man about the House, Porridge and Rising Damp, one submits to the thesis. Racism was the fly in the outtment of course, from Rigsby's inflamed fantasies in Rising Damp to the Inflamous Love Thy Neighbour, where the West Indian neighbours were known as "nig nogs". The series was a necessary rite of

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

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HAM ABC Park of 5.35p (La V The F Shak HAR SAFF O H 8.45 1.30p

100

BBC2

10.30 IIIM Huck and the King of Hearts (Michael Keusch 1993 US). Loose, contemporary version of the Mark Twain classic, which sees streetwise Missouri kid, Billy "Huck" Thomas (played by Chauncey Leopardi) running away from his mother's abusive boyfriend and befriending a Native American (S) (38696).

12.00 Wildlife Showcase (88290). 12.30 Working Lunch (47702). 1.00 Brum (68471832). 1.10 The Leisure Hour (9427661). 2.10 Sporting Greats (S) (58895832). 2.40 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (3749122). 2.45 Westminster (S) (T) (5421509). 3.50 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6608509). 3.55 Kaye (S) (9831889). 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (S) (T) (6610344). 4.55 Eather (R) (5895325). 5.30 Whose House? (S) (764).

Sophie Grigson's Herbs. This week looks at edible flowers, as Grigson uses scented geraniums in a moist almond cake and roses in a dressed salad. Plus, Paul Rankin's recipes for elderflower fritters (S) (T) (141).

8.30 Looking Good. Three viewers test the latest hi-tech moisturising creams, while Bharti Vyas looks at essential pregnancy gear (S) (T) (2509).

9.00 The Good Life. As a taster for tonight's documentary about British sitcoms in the 1970s, here's an episode of the classic self-sufficiency comedy. Tom (Richard Briere) builds a generator fuelled by pig dung (R) (T) (7035).

10.30 Newsnight. Paxman (T) (841509). 10.10 The Car's the Star. The E-type Jaguar (8) (89485)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. After a mysterious accident, Picard wakes up living someone elseb life on another planet. Just another day on the USS Enterprise then (R) (S) (T) (628986).

6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Glies discovers an encient book foreteiling Buffy's death at the hands of the Master (S) (T) (484899).

8.00 University Challenge. The Open University take Birkbeck College, London (S) (T) (8702).

11.15 BBC Young Musicians. The programme visits a music class for under-twos (Then Wealherview) (5) (433702).

12.00 Despatch Box (S) (94888). 12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University – A Formidable Foe (T) (73807). 1.00 Sex and the Single Gene (T) (11284). 1.30 The Art of Breathing (T) (45739). 2.00 Schools: GCSE Bitesize: Maths – Pt 1 (T) (31178). 4.00 Languages: España Viva 7 & 8 (28442). 5.00 Business and Training: \$9 You Want to Work in Social Care? (87975). 5.30 20 Steps to Better Management (7081772). To 5.45am.

extended *Billnd Date* report, this documentary (the first of two) follows Carla Germaine and Greg Cordell, the couple who famously won a radio competition and got married at their first encounter (the belt was a luxury honeymoon in the Carlbbean, and a luxury epartment and a car for a year). See this week's *OKI* megazine for further details (S) (T) (9509).

ETIDICE Hunting Venus. Comedy drama in which the members of a disbanded New Romantic pop group are blackmalled into re-forming. See Comedy Drama of the Day, below (T) (41212528).

News, Weather (T) (238948).

11.25 IIII Comrades of Summer (Tommy Lee Wallace 1893 US). David Marnet's favourite leading man, Joe Marriegna, plays a prematurely retired baseball player who agrees to coach a Russian team (448870).

1.25 ITIMI Confidential (Bruce Pittman 1988 US), Film noir private-eye saga in which a 1940s LA reporter becomes fixated with a 30-year-old axe-murder case (979771).

9.25 Trisha (S) (T) (8421986). 10.30 This Morning (T) (57089257). 12.20 Your Shout (7762290). 12.30 ITV Lunchlime News; Weether (T) (4003325). 12.55 London Today (T) (401344). 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (4683238). 2.10 Home and Away (S) (T) (56822986). 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (S) (T) (85(2734).

3.10 ITV News Children's ITVI Mopatop's Shop (4288783), 3.30 Teddybears (9248696), 3.40 Jumanji (R) (S) (T) (9909290), 4.05 Hey Amoldi (R) (T) (6691219), 4.35 Wildtrack (T) (3573431), Headlines (T) (5566238).

5.00 Home and Away (S) (T) (4344).

8.00 London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East (7) (431).

ng News, Weather (T) (783).

7.30 Coronation Street. Ken and Deirdre are getting on better than expected, and it can't be long before flirty-eyed Tom and Maxine are grappling amid the conditioner and curling tongs (S) (T) (967).

don Tonight (T) (579073).

3.05 Trisha (2502913). **4.05** Soundtrax (46968888). **4.15** ITV Nightscreen (8784130). To 415am.

COMEDY DRAMA OF THE DAY

Carlton

6.00 GMTV (5299257).

3.20 Children's 3.30 Teddy

5.30 London Bridge. Dino's plot to get rid of Ray goes horribly wrong. Natch (S) (290).

7.00 Emmerdale. The increasingly unstable Graham (psycho storylines in the offing, one suspects) is furious about Rachel's party. Plus, the truth about Stella (4580).

10.00 Sex and the City. Carrie thinks she might be pregnant (S) (T) (15615).

hannel

Channel

4.50 DIDIO The Night My Number Came Up (Lesile Norman 1955 US). Airline pilot Michael Redgrave's rightmares begin to come true. See Film of the Day, below (7572585).

3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (561). 4.00 Fifteen to One (T) (686). 4.30 Countdown (T) (3572702). 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5680493). 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (632).

5.20 5 News (S) (T) (71793171). **5.30 100 Per Cent.** The 500th

100 Par Cent. The 500th edition, you'll be utterly thrilled to learn (R) (S) (2786870).

3.30 IIIII The Return of Frank Cannon (Corey Allen 1980 US). William Conrads 19-stone sleuth-cum-bon viveur is resurrecised for a feature-length TV movie. The fat chap comes out of retirement to investigate the suspicious suicide of an old friend (1546847).

6.00 Dawson's Creek, When Joey pursues her natural gifts as an artist it alienates Dawson, while Jack displays a new side of his personality as a sensitive art lover (1) (604306).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather. Including headlines at 7.30pm (S) (T) (174035). **6.50 T4**orce (644677).

7.55 Dovetails. The editor of Sunday World explains how the reduction of violence to report in Northern Ireland has forced him to broaden his horizons (T) (256752).

8.30 Doors to Manual. Paris is this week's destination in the city-break guide (T) (7877). 8.00 Brookside. Jackis tells Jimmy that she cannot take any more lies. Mind you, this is from the woman who stretches the phrese "one last chance" further than its ever been stretched before (5) (7) (1870).

9.00 ER. To celebrate the hospitals 100th anniversary, Carter escorts a 100-year-old woman and her family on a tour of County General. And Hathaway treats an eight-year-old boy who seems unable to explain why his best friend died while they were in the park (5) (T) (9515).

10.30 Michael Moore – the Awful Truth (S) (T) (91035).

11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show. Zzzatire (T). (4848).

11.30 So Graham Norton (R) (422513).

12.10 Le Petit Package (4032913). 12.25 Board Stupid (8245352). 12.55 F3 on 4 (R) (2576739). 1.25 Football Italia - Mezzanotte (55390082). 3.45 Transworld Sport (R) (1204604). 4.40 Soviet Echoes (R) (S) (T) (8665285).

5.85 Sesame Street (5333975). To 7am.

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (67290). **7.00** The Big Breakfast (29967).

9.00 IIIM The Kid from Brooklyn (Norman Z McLeod 1946 US). Mild-mannered milkman Danny Kaye accidentally knocks out a world boxing chempion during an incident outside a nightclub and ends up fighting for the middleweight title. This remake of a Harold Lloyd silent cornedy cornes laden with songs (T) (405/6528).

Travelog Treks (3579783). 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (3696). 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (14986). 12.30 Bewitched (R) (S) (T) (32870). 1.00 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (22054). 1.30 Callectors Lot: Little Gems (T) (59081122). 8.00 5 News and Sport (S) (2159342), 7.00 WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (8463615), 7.30 Milkshake! (S) (2988141), 7.35 Dappledown Farm (R) (4967870), 8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (R) (S) (2180493), 8.30 Wilchworld (2189784), 9.00 Hot Property (R) (S) (T) (7218031), 9.25 Russell Grant's Posicerds (R) (4749412), 9.30 The Oprah Wintey Show (S) (8586211), 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (3936054), 11.00 Lesza (R) (S) (9715603), 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (2183580), 12.30 Family Affairs (R) (S) (T) (1561702), 1.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (8462986), 1.30 The Roseanne Show (S) (1560073), 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (9448702), 2.30 Good Affernoon (S) (1047290).

6.00 5 News, including First on Five. Kirsty Young is a woman on the move (S) (T) (2783789).

6.30 Family Affairs, Benji caves in to peer pressure. Pam gives Cat a piece of her mind, and Declan discovers that Yasmin has hidden talents (S) (T) (2774035).

7.00 Knight Rider. David Hasssihoff and his talking oar enter an aliernative fuel race to flush out a saboteur intent on nobbling the competition (R) (9410290).

7.30 Nature of Oz. Australian wildlife documentary about the Tasmanian tiger (S) (T) (2770219).

8.00 My Titanio. The sinking of the Estonia tarry in 1994, from the point of view of one of the 137 survivors (S) (T) (8881509).

US). Set in 1950s Florida, Tyne Daley and Gerad McRaney play a sharecropper and discover on their release that they have to battle to regain custody of their children. The film is greatly bolstered by Cagney and Lacey's Daley, who always brings an emotional intensity to her roles, and she's joined by a young Alicia Silverstone as one of the kds (5) (T) (81548257).

10.50 Euro 2000. Highlights of today's Euro 2000 qualifying inatch between Northern Ireland and Moldovs. Jonathan Pearge is the excitable chap in the background (S) (8803685).

12.30 Ice Hockey: Los Angeles Kings vs Detroit Red Wings (1068420). 5.30 100 Per Cent (R) (S) (6165975). To 6am. 11.50 The Jack Docherty Show. Barbara Windsor and Andy Williams keep him company (825/257).

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT



FILM OF THE DAY

THE NIGHT MY NUMBER CAME UP (150pm C4, 19th) RC Sherriff, who wrote the classic Great War trenches play Journey's End, had become a prolific screenwriter by his late thirties - responsible for the scripts for The Invisible Man, Lady Hamilton and Goodbye Mr Chips, among others. In the same year (1955) that he wrote the better-known war movic, The Dann Busters, he also knocked out this intriguing suspense tale - directed at Eating Studios by Loslie Norman, Barry's dad. Michael Rodgrave plays the pilot of an aircraft that is an route to Tokyo when events start to take on a disturbing resemblance to a recent nightmare.

HUNTING VENUS (9pm ITV, right) Neil Morrissey, the terminally laddish Tony in Men Beliaving Badly, playing a post-op transsexual might seem to have possibilities as a feminist revenge fantasy – but Nick Vivian's cornedy drama is more interested in nostalgia. It tells of a long-scattered 1880s New Romantic pop group that is blackmailed into reforming by two former fans. A useful cast (also including Martin Clunes and Jane Horrocks) could have done with fewer Gary Numan gags and a generally snappier script. And one kept on hoping for more than just the tantalising snippets we get of Ultravox, Human League, Spandau Ballet and their lik.



